Daily Report

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Second-Round Election Results Reported

AU0804143091 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1330 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Second-round elections for People's Assembly deputies were held in 18 constituencies yesterday. No election was held yesterday in Constituency 142 in Lushnje District; on the basis of Article 67 of the Electoral Law, they will be held next Sunday, 14 April.

As we have been told by the Central Electoral Commission, electoral reports had arrived from the districts of Berat, Durres, Gjirokaster, Kruje, Lezhe, Sarande, Pogradec, Shkoder, Tirana, and Vlore as of a few moments ago. Thus, reports have still not arrived from Lushnje alone.

The candidates of the Albanian Workers Party [PPSh] have won in three Tirana constituencies. In Constituency 213, PPSh candidate Fatos Thanas Nano won a majority of votes. Zyber Fadil Sinani won in Constituency 223, and Banush Mustafa Xhabrahimi won in Constituency 225.

Elections were held in two Lezhe constituencies. In one, the PPSh candidate won, and the Democratic Party [PDSh] candidate in the other. More specifically, PDSh candidate Esat Shaqir Myftari won in Constituency 129, and PPSh candidate Gjyl Rexhep Brahimi in Constituency 131.

In Berat, where elections were held yesterday in only one constituency—i.e. in Constituency 1—PDSh candidate Avdi Hasan Baleta won a majority of votes.

In two constituencies of Durres District, PDsh candidates won: (?Ismet Xhevat Feriza) in Constituency 35, and (?Nimete Todo Miho) in Constituency 42.

The PDSh candidate (?Alfred Engjell Sereci) also won a majority of votes in Constituency 118 in Kruje District.

In Lushnje District, from which, as we said, electoral reports have still not arrived, telephone reports state that PDSh candidates won in the two constituencies in which elections were held yesterday: Bardhyl Qemal Stafa in Constituency 138, and (?Fitim Myftar Nina) in Constituency 139. Let me remind listeners that elections will be held in Constituency 142 of this district on 14 April.

In Sarande District, candidates of the Omonia Political Organization won a majority in two constituencies. (?Andrea Kosta Zarvala) won in Constituency 174, and Toma Jorgomico in Constituency 176.

In Shkoder District, PDSh candidates won in both constituencies: (?Behaxhir Halit Bakalli) in Constituency 193, and Vehbi Hamdi Gruda in Constituency 197.

In Vlore District, Petraq Aqile Curri of the PDSh won in Constituency 250.

In Gjirokaster District, PPSh candidate Foto Jorgji Fuqi won in Constituency 90.

In Pogradec District, PPSh candidate Belul Haxhi Lufo won in Constituency 166.

According to these data, it emerges that 10 PDSh candidates, six PPSh candidates, and two Omonia candidates won in the 18 constituencies in which a second electoral round was held.

Meanwhile, as we said, the elections have been postponed until 14 April in Constituency 142 of Lushnje District.

Thus, the PPSh has secured 168 seats in the People's Assembly, or 67.2 percent. The PDSh has won 75 seats, or 30 percent. The Omonia Political Organization has won five seats, or 2 percent. The Veterans Association has won only one seat, or 0.4 percent.

PPSh Central Committee Statement on Victory

AU0804165191 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian 3 Apr 91 p 1

[Statement issued by the Workers Party Central Committee in Tirana on 1 April: "The Albanian Workers Party's Dignified Victory"]

[Text] The deputies to the People's Assembly were elected by secret ballot on 31 March. The Albanian Workers Party [PPSh] secured a great victory in the first round, gaining an absolute majority in the future assembly. The people gave a vote of confidence to 162 candidates presented by the party, or 64.8 percent of the seats in the new assembly. Even in those constituencies where the PPSh did not win, about 40 percent of the electorate voted for it. Thus the free and pluralist elections of 31 March proved once again that the PPSh with Comrade Ramiz Alia at its head is the main party in the country that enjoys the people's trust.

The PPSh thanks the Albanian people and all its voters and supporters for the great trust they expressed.

The victory in the 31 March elections shows the strength and vitality of the PPSh, its close ties with the people, and its deep roots in the masses.

Our party will work to strengthen its ties with the people and the trust it enjoys among them and to further advance in the struggle to realize the electoral program it placed before the people.

Some of our party's candidates did not win in some constituencies, especially in the large towns. This reality shows that the party's work in these constituencies, especially its ties with the workers class, young people, and the intelligentsia, has been poor. Comrade Ramiz Alia was among the candidates who failed to win in Tirana. This was an unexpected and undeserved loss. The fact that the majority of electors nationwide voted for the PPSh, however, shows indisputably that the communists and the overwhelming majority of the people see and value in the figure and character of Comrade Ramiz Alia a distinguished leader of the PPSh

and an experienced political personality who is able and competent to steer the country's destiny.

In stabilizing the country's political and economic situation, our party, within the framework of the rule of law, and alongside its own total commitment and that of state and mass organizations, expresses its desire to cooperate with all political forces for the sake of the realization of the people's interests and aspirations and the homeland's freedom and independence.

The country needs unity, work, calm, anmd vigilance. The PPSh Central Committee therefore calls on everybody to put all their energies into action with faith in the future, and to commit all their material and intellectual resources to the country's development and progress.

PPSh Central Committee. Tirana, 1 April 1991.

Alia, Trade Unionists Discuss Shkoder Events

AU0804162891 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1600 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Comrade Ramiz Alia, president of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, received this morning a group of representatives of the Presidium of the Independent Trade Unions, including three members of this organization's presidium for Shkoder District.

At this meeting, the representatives of the Independent Trade Unions expressed their concern at the events that took place in Shkoder after the 31 March election. They presented to Comrade Ramiz the demand that the Presidential Council and the government should commit themselves and act to calm the situation and to restore normal conditions of work and life. This organization's representatives for their part committed themselves, while remaining independent and acting solely in the interests of the people, the work force, and the homeland, to issuing an appeal to all working people to dedicate themselves to work and to shoulder their tasks. This, they stressed, requires a fast and fuller explanation through the press, radio, and television, of everything that took place in recent days in Shkoder.

Comrade Ramiz Alia expressed his appreciation of the readiness of the organization of the Independent Trade Unions to contribute to the country's political stabilization. He expressed regret at the events after 31 March, which spoiled the democratic atmosphere of the election and led to serious and painful incidents and loss of life. Comrade Ramiz stressed that the Presidential Council feels that the investigations of these events must be followed through to the end, with the aim of detecting their culprits and establishing their responsibility, calming people, and reestablishing order and discipline at work everywhere. The experts entrusted with this task, he said, must work faster so that the people will be genuinely informed of the truth.

At the meeting, the comrades from the Independent Trade Unions pledged that their organization will give its full contribution toward remedying the situation.

Professor Dr. Lufter Xhuveli, member of the Presidential Council, was also present at the meeting.

Alia Receives Kosovo's Gorani, Views Election

AU0504203791 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 2000 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Comrade Ramiz Alia, president of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, received the delegation of the Independent Trade Unions of Kosovo headed by Professor Dr. Hajrullah Gorani this afternoon, with whom he conducted a cordial conversation.

Comrade Ramiz Alia informed his Kosovar guest about the situation after the free and democratic elections of 31 March. These elections, he stressed, represent a new step forward on the road of democratization. We now have a pluralist People's Assembly that corresponds to the political will of all strata of the populace. The political parties have agreed to accept the election results. Putting the homeland's interests before everything, however, they must cooperate in the country's government, opening new horizons to the people. This is what Albania demands today, not divisions according to party interests and ambitions. The process of democratization, after achieving the important victory of 31 March, will not slacken or still less stop. The Albanian Workers Party has only one line, and that is the line of democratic development, strengthening our achievements, and protecting national interests. It is not borne aloft on the wings of assorted plans, and will, therefore, follow consistently the road that is of most benefit to the people. We must all build democracy together, Comrade Ramiz said later. The people want an atmosphere of calm and security, especially now that they have given their verdict at the polls. It is a shame, therefore, that recent days in Shkoder—a city always noted for its culture, tolerance, and prudence—have witnessed painful events, murders, and acts of destruction, which incite divisiveness and cause new tensions. I call on everybody, Comrade Ramiz said, on citizens, political parties, young people, and the intelligentsia, to restrain their passions and to seek a language of understanding. We must do this for the sake of Albania's sovereignty. Let us all return to work.

Comrade Ramiz then spoke about our state's stand toward the just demands of our Albanian brothers living in Yugoslavia. We, he said, follow with concern everything that happens there. We understand the difficulties you have and we know that a severe situation prevails everywhere in Kosovo because of Great Serbian oppression. The brave working class of Kosovo, the peasantry, young people, and intellectuals must be confident that we will support with all our strength their struggle for national and social rights.

For his part, Professor Dr. Hajrullah Gorani, chairman of the Independent Trade Unions of Kosovo, thanked Comrade Ramiz Alia for his welcome and the warm conversation and presented a political picture of current developments in Kosovo. He expressed his appreciation of the elections held in Albania on 31 March as an important political victory for the entire Albanian people and as direct support for the rights of our brothers in Kosovo and elsewhere. He later stressed that the Independent Trade Unions of Kosovo are now working to strengthen solidarity among workers, peasants, and intellectuals in order to overcome together, as always, the highly difficult situations that may arise. We Kosovars, in Kosovo and wherever we may be, shared deeply in the experience of democratic development in Albania, he said. I hope that democracy in Albania will always progress, and I always have been and remain optimistic of this, especially when I consider your role, tolerance, and personal commitment, he said to Comrade Ramiz.

The meeting took place in an extremely warm, intimate, and fraternal atmosphere. Sotir Kocollari, chairman of the General Council of the Trade Unions of Albania, was also present at the meeting.

Democratic Processes Viewed

AU0604172091 Tirana ATA in English 0951 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Tirana, April 6 (ATA)—Prof. Dr. Hajrulla Gorani, chairman of the Union of Independent Trade Unions of Kosovo is actually for a visit to our country in the head of a delegation of this union. After his arrival in Albania he had an interview with the editor of the newspaper "PUNA", organ of the General Council of the Trade Unions of Albania. After speaking of the objective of the visit of his delegation to our country, to know the Albanian trade unions, Prof. Dr. Hajrulla Gorani said when asked about the democratic processes in Albania:

I am optimistic for the further development of these processes. So far we have considered pluralism only as a grammatical category. Numerous opinions are a prosperity and we should get used to various opinions. I think that life in Albania is rapidly being democratized and I wish this democratization strengthens and develops even further. The multy party elections are now already conducted and I think this road of democratization will go farther.... The question of Kosovo can certainly be solved and will be solved in a democratic way. The democratic road chosen by the working class, the people, by Europe will carry us to a further liberation.

Asked about the possible cooperation of the Union of Independent Trade Unions of Kosovo and the General Council of the Trade Unions of Albania, he said:

I would like this cooperation find understanding and develop. We have relations with trade unions of various countries such as France, Germany, Austria etc., Whereas with the trade unions of Albania we have never had contacts. I realise and I will be really happy if these contacts will be stronger, faster, to the benefit of all the nation and working people.

Friendship Association Formed With United States

AU0804190491 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1800 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] At the request of a group of activists from the cities of Tirana, Korce, and Shkoder, the Albania-United States Friendship Association [Shoqata e Miqesise Shqiperi-Shtetet e Bashkuara te Amerikes] has been created.

This association will provide help in strengthening friendly ties between the Albanian and American peoples and with the Albanian community in the United States. It will help to spread knowledge of the history, culture, and general socioeconomic developments and achievements of the American people among the Albanian people and vice versa. It will work for the development of friendly cooperation between Albania and the United States in fields of mutual interest.

The Albania-United States Friendship Association will conduct its activities in accordance with its registered statute.

SDS Insists on June General Elections

AU0804192791 Sofia BTA in English 1849 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 8 (BTA)—At the meeting of its National Coordinating Council today the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) insisted on new general elections to be held on June 23 and June 30, 1991 respectively.

The meeting set a deadline for the adoption of the new constitution and expressed its support for the 48 SDS M.P.'s who called for the dissolution of the Grand National Assembly within ten days. The participants in the meeting were informed of a scheme that had been created by the secret services of the former Socialist countries and which was enacted in Bulgaria as well. The scheme envisaged the formation of a "meek" and "obedient" opposition in which secret services agents would be infiltrated. SDS discussed ways of exposing possible informants within its ranks without causing a rift in the coalition, it was said on national television tonight.

The decisions of the SDS Coordinating Council were made public at a meeting today which called for an immediate overhaul of the system. The speakers emphasized that prompt general elections would guarantee not only the adoption of the new constitution but would also provide the economic basis for the future reforms.

The meeting adopted a resolution which says that the Grand National Assembly does not want and cannot adopt the much needed legislation that will enable the overhaul of the present political and economic system. The speakers pointed out that only the SDS can lead the country out of the crisis. They insisted that the truth about the political assassinations, drug trafficking and harassment of opposition leaders be made public immediately.

Thousands Demonstrate for Elections

AU0804192891 Paris AFP in English 1915 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 8 (AFP)—More than 15,000 demonstrators gathered Monday in downtown Sofia, calling for parliamentary elections in June and chanting slogans against the Bulgarian Socialist Party, formerly the communists.

Leaders of the main anti-communist movement, Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) [SDS], made the same demand earlier in the day.

Speakers said similar rallies would take place every Monday to back the demand.

On Thursday, 47 UDF members of parliament threatened to resign at the end of the month if the government failed to call elections in June.

However, the Socialist-controlled parliament has decided not to call parliamentary elections until a new constitution is adopted and local elections held.

UDF Chairman Filip Dimitrov, addressing the demonstration, said that a parliament dominated by former communists was "incapable of adopting a democratic constitution".

Meanwhile, Bulgarian television reported that the UDF leadership had decided to ask its 144 MP's to quit parliament on April 19 to form a shadow government.

If at least 134 of them did so, the 400-seat parliament would lack a two-thirds majority, making it unable to adopt a new constitution.

Fatherland Party's Kumanov Interviewed

AU0804191191 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 3 Apr 91 p 4

[Interview with Krum Kumanov, chairman of the Bulgarian Fatherland Party—Plovdiv, by Zoya Nestorova; place and date not given: "National Compromise Can Cost Dearly"]

[Excerpts] [Nestorova] Recently your party left the Consultative Council of the Extralegislative Parties at the Presidency. Why?

[Kumanov] The Consultative Council did not justify our goals and tasks. The passivity of the state institutions, which had to support us in defending the country's interests by opposing the political forces that destroy the national unity within the country, is unworthy. Nothing was done to save our compatriots, settled in Bulgarian lands, torn from the motherland. Those lands practically border on Bulgaria. On 7 February 1991 the Bulgarian Fatherland Party became one of the constituents of the Bulgarian National Union, which must implement the goals that the consultative Council proved unable to attain.

[Nestorova] The positions of the Bulgarian Fatherland Party seldom coincide with the official positions of the Presidency and the government. Is this a striving to be original, or something else?

[Kumanov] We witness the well-known practice: Mistakes are replaced by other mistakes. We do not want this practice to be repeated, thus we will always oppose decisions that contradict the national interests.

[Nestorova] Are you sure that your positions coincide with the national interests?

[Kumanov] We think that the first steps toward democracy were accompanied by compromises, which by no means served the Bulgarian interest. I do not know of another case of a nation allowing a legislative group based on ethnic and religious principles to enter its legislature and become a political force. I mean the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS]. The

National Assembly did not respect the decision of the roundtable to not register movements or parties based on an ethnic foundation. We think that this Grand National Assembly, with its present composition and character, is illegitimate, because it has made many mistakes vis-a-vis our national unity and created preconditions of ethnic isolation, based on religious and ethnic belonging, that leads toward separatism. The DPS is not to be believed, because there is a discrepancy between their words and deeds. [passage omitted]

[Nestorova] It seems that there is no place for any optimism. For some people the road of salvation passes through the Bosphorus, for others—through Washington. What is your road?

[Kumanov] Bulgaria's national interests must be above all. If we continue to senselessly toss from the orbit of one great state to another, only because the political situation requires this, we shall soon pay dearly for the mistakes we make.

Health Ministry Announces Organizational Reforms

AU0804155191 Sofia BTA in English 1456 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 8 (BTA)—The Ministry of Health has decided to set up two consultative bodies: A Supreme Medical Council and a Pharmaceutics Council which will provide expert advice on key problems of health care and drug policy, on the new sanitary acts, on the setting up of health centers, etc. These bodies will also be consulted in connection with the opening of private health centers, consulting rooms, pharmacies and laboratories. The councils will try to impose order on the health care system and the supply of medicines which are now in a state of chaos caused partly by the economic crisis and partly by the incompetent decisions that were adopted in the past.

Medicines present the worst problem. According to the Ministry of Health, Bulgaria can meet only 47 per cent of its needs of the 120 most required medicines. The country experiences a chronic shortage of antibiotics, analgesics, anesthetics, dressings, sutures, disinfectants and no alcohol is available even in laboratories. There is a real danger of hospitals being closed down but for the humanitarian aid which is flowing into the country. In March Bulgaria received 126 shipments of medicines from the U.S., Holland, Israel, Italy and other countries. The organization "Medecins Sans Frontieres" completed its mission in Bulgaria. Mr. Max Andre, leader of the mission, said that it had delivered 1,350,000 U.S. dollars worth of medicines which were distributed among eight hospitals in the country. The mission also prepared a report on the state and the needs of the Bulgarian medicine which would be presented to the EC. Mr. Andre said that he would return to Bulgaria within a month for the second stage of the mission. The project of the mission provides not only for material aid but also for the establishment of a close cooperation which will make it possible for Bulgarian medical workers to be trained in France and to exchange experience with their French colleagues.

Although at the end of February the prices of medicines rose considerably, pharmacies are empty. The average price rise was three to five times but the prices of some medicines surged tenfold. The price of cotton, for example, jumped from 4 to 37 leva per kilo, and the price of cough syrup rose from 0.65 to 9 leva. Only the prices of antibiotics remained almost unchanged. Experts believe that some of the prices are unreasonably high, especially those of medicines which are bought free of charge or are used only in hospitals. This imposes a considerable pressure on the national budget. Pharmacists insist that the duties and turnover tax on medicines and other medical goods be removed.

Council of Europe Meets on Membership Issue

AU0804191591 Sofia BTA in English 1847 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 8 (BTA)—The Committee on Relations with European Non-Member Countries of the Council of Europe had a meeting here today. A representative of the press center of the Grand National Assembly said that the meeting focused on the committee's reports on Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Romania, the elections in Albania and other problems. The committee approves the idea of granting full membership to Bulgaria but this is a matter on which the Political and Legislation Committees should be consulted as well.

According to Mr. Peter Zager, of Switzerland, Bulgaria may receive full membership within ten to twelve months after the adoption of the new constitution and the next parliamentary elections.

Havel Condemns Iraqi Action Against Kurds

LD0804160891 Prague CTK in English 1316 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Prague April 8 (CTK)—President Vaclav Havel firmly condemns the Iraqi government's treatment of its Kurdish population, said Ivan Gabal, standing in for the president's regular spokesperson at the presidential briefing here today.

"Czechoslovakia is prepared to support any actions in the international realm, particularly in the U.N., that would help to remedy the situation and bring a halt to the persecution, murder and mass exodus of the Kurdish population, and lead to dignified living conditions for Kurds in Iraq", Gabal said.

Referring to Friday's incident in which Kurds demonstrating in front of the Iraqi Embassy in Prague were fired on by embassy employees, Gabal said officials from the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry will speak today with the Iraqi ambassador about the possible expulsion of Iraqi citizens responsible for the shooting. Said Gabal, "The president considers the incident a gross violation of both the Vienna convention on diplomatic relations and Czechoslovak law and firmly condemns it as such".

Gabal also told journalists that President Havel will receive German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher on Thursday, and Irish Prime Minister Charles James Haughey on Friday.

On Sunday the president will fly to London, along with Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus and State Bank President Josef Tosovsky, to take part in the ceremonial opening of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

Foreign Ministry Supports UN Resolution on Kurds

AU0904132891 Prague CTK in English 1343 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Prague April 7 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry is alarmed by reports on brutal attacks by the Iraqi Armed Forces against the Iraqi civil population, says a statement the ministry handed over to CTK today.

The ministry therefore welcomes resolution 688 passed by the UN Security Council on April 5, 1991, condemning reprisals against Iraqi civilians, namely Kurds, and calls for an immediate cessation of these reprisals and the opening of a political dialogue on human and political rights of all Iraqis.

Four Iraqi Embassy Staff Expelled From Country

LD0804191691 Prague CTK in English 1744 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Prague April 8 (CTK) - Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier signed today a note declaring four staffers of the Iraqi Embassy in Prague personae non gratae and asking them to leave Czechoslovakia within 48 hours.

Dienstbier thus reacted to last Friday's incident outside the Iraqi Embassy in Prague during which embassy staffers used firearms outside the embassy compound.

The note will probably be handed to Iraqi Ambassador to Czechosovakia Mundhir Ahmad al-Mutlaq tomorrow as the embassy said the ambassador was "temporarily indisposed" and cannot pay a visit to the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Egon Lansky said.

The ministry decided to expel two attaches - Harith K. Omar and Mouwafak A. Yassin, and two clerks - Sh. Yousif and Saisal I. Slubi. [names as received]

Nevertheless, earlier today the ambassador met with Foreign Ministry department head Karel Fiser at his own request and handed over to him a note asking for reception by the foreign minister.

According to Lansky, the meeting is unlikely to take place as the Iraqi ambassador insists on his version of the incident and claims that Kurdish students who demonstrated outside the embassy on Friday threatened to set the embassy premises on fire. He even claims that they beat an embassy staffer so that he lost consciousness. These data are, however, at variance with the results of investigations so far made by the Czechoslovak Federal Interior Ministry.

Expulsion Note Given to Ambassador

LD0904114491 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 1000 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] (Vlastimil Bucek), Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs diplomatic protocol director, delivered a note to Iraqi Ambassador Mundhir Ahmad al-Mutlaq ordering the expulsion of four Iraqi Embassy employees from Czechoslovakia within 48 hours. This is in response to Friday's incident outside the Iraqi Embassy. The Iraqi ambassador said that he considers the expulsion decision unfair, but he said he would respect it.

Official on Trade Possibilities With USSR

AU0804193891 Prague ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech 4 Apr 91 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Engineer Lubomir Martak, CSFR deputy minister of foreign trade, by Jan Subert; place and date not given: "Trade Transactions Possibly on the Basis of the Czechoslovak Koruna"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Subert] How is trade between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union developing at state level?

[Martak] The agreement that has been signed by the governments of the two countries guarantees between 30 and 35 percent of last year's volume of bilateral trade—

about 40 percent of the volume of Czechoslovak imports and 28 percent of Czechoslovak exports. Under the terms of the agreement, the difference is to cover the repayment of Soviet debt. [passage omitted]

[Subert] I have heard speculation about Czechoslovakia extending a dollar credit to the Soviet Union so it can pay for imports of Czechoslovak goods. Is this realistic?

[Martak] We cannot afford anything of this sort today. Incidentally, the money that we have in the USSR (the Soviet debt now amounts to $3.6 billion) had been extended in the form of credit. Since 1987 our enterprises have been supplying to the Soviet Union goods on credit to avoid having to severely cut their output. The Soviets were insolvent even then. [passage omitted]

[Subert] Does any solution offer itself for us to stay on the Soviet market?

[Martak] CSFR Deputy Prime Minister Vales' recent talks in Moscow showed that there are three possibilities. The first is cross-border trade, which is permitted in the Soviet Union and of which we have not made use thus far. Furthermore, a few Soviet economic organizations have been granted an exception and are authorized to carry out barter trade transactions. We would therefore like to establish joint ventures with these organizations. The third possibility would be the use of the national currency.

[Subert] Would this mean a return to the ruble?

[Martak] If the further talks go well, it could even be trade on the basis of the Czechoslovak koruna. After all, the koruna is a hard currency [valuta] today and trade transactions of this sort would be in harmony with all Soviet regulations.

Calfa on Petition by Unions of Industry

AU0404120391 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 29 Mar 91 pp 8, 9

["Standpoint of CSFR Prime Minister Marian Calfa concerning the interpellation by Federal Assembly Deputies J. Wagner and J. Sedlak on the Petition by the Unions of Industry of the Czech and Slovak Republics"]

[Text]**I. Economic Situation in the CSFR**

The Petition by the Unions of Industry of the Czech and Slovak Republics is one of the most significant responses to the country's economic situation. There is no doubt about the gravity of the situation, and under no circumstances will the CSFR Government take it lightly. Nevertheless, in assessing the causes of the current situation, the federal government takes an entirely different view from that contained in the petition, particularly with respect to further progress in the transformation of the economy.

First of all, one must point out that it is erroneous and unfair to identify all the current unfavorable economic phenomena with the reform or, as the case may be, even just with the economic policy of the federal government. A profound marketing crisis, closely linked to the developments in Eastern and Central Europe, is the most significant feature of Czechoslovak economic life.

The government has never hidden or denied the difficulty of the period of transition, the difficulty of the first steps. If, to make the situation worse, these steps are compounded by a dramatic deterioration of external conditions, then the negative impact on the population and on the economic and budgetary sphere is even more serious. Understandably, the petition presented to the Federal Assembly is mostly concerned with the insolvency of enterprises. Regarding this insolvency, the federal government can be blamed for using impulsive financial, credit, and currency policies; it criticizes above all the government's indiscriminate generalizations.

A long-term analysis shows that the insolvency (stopped payments) really reached the absolute maximum, although when comparing with the past, one must also take into consideration the increase in prices. The difference in comparison with previous years also lies in the fact that formerly credits were limited by credits previously granted that year and, according to the "credit plan," the restrictions were withdrawn for the following month. The necessary change in the currency policy, i.e. a consistent restriction independent of the limiting "index" terms has prevented the usual decline:

The total stopped payments in the CSFR in the last and the first months of the year (billion korunas) year (t)

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
December t	8.7	8.2	13.0	32.3	46.3	26.2	7.2	53.6
January t+1	4.4	4.9	5.9	18.0	47.2	19.0	7.1	77.6
increase	-4.3	-3.3	-7.1	-14.3	+0.9	-7.2	-0.1	+24.0

From the point of view of the territorial structure, insolvency accelerated in January more in the Czech Republic, i.e. by 53 percent, while the growth in Slovakia was more moderate, i.e. by 24 percent. The main weight of the insolvency still lies in the state sphere, but the increase is more dynamic in agricultural cooperatives and in private business. It is apparently caused by the decomposition of some cooperatives that has begun (for example, as the DAK [Agricultural Cooperative Conglomerate] Slusovice fell apart, relations of succession have not been clarified, and in January the insolvency increased by 400 million korunas). In private business, apparently the insolvency is caused by the weak financial basis and the overly strong links to the state sphere.

When classified by fields, the greatest insolvency still is in mechanical and electrical engineering. In January, however, this field recorded a decline. It may have been connected with the decline of stock in this branch of industry at the end of the year (by approximately 3 billion korunas) and with solving some burning problems by arranging credits (Zetor Brno). A dramatic growth occurred in metallurgy, where the growth of insolvency equals one-half of the total increase. The reason for this is the overestimation by enterprises of marketing possibilities. As a result of the growing insolvency of their customers, metallurgical enterprises must refuse incoming orders, and conversely, some customers cancel their orders. With respect to its acceleration, the insolvency in domestic trade, which stands at the end of a chain of mostly cash payments, is of particular interest. The price limit on demand is already reflected here and is augmented by the inadequate business-expansion policy that leads to amassing unmarketable stock. This is connected with the insolvency of the food industry and primary agricultural products.

The insolvency phenomenon is a logical, and, to a point, a therapeutic factor in the economic development. Its present size, however, exceeds any healthy and appropriate level, and in this respect the Petition by the Unions of Industry is right. The level of the insolvency is, however, a consequence of causes, the characteristics of which, as presented by the petition, are absolutely wrong and biased.

II. Reasons for the Present State of the Economic and Financial Situation of Enterprises

The principal error of the petition is that it gives all the responsibility for the present state exclusively to a single entity—the Federal Government. It disregards the consequences of all activity by other entities, which are becoming less and less dependent under the market economy (enterprises, commercial banks, bank of issue), and similarly it disregards all objective facts that cannot be influenced by any economic policy.

II/1. The most important factor for the state of the Czechoslovak economy at the beginning of 1991 is the marketing crisis. It begins with an inability of Czech and Slovak enterprises to sell their products on eastern and western markets.

Even three years ago, trade with the Soviet Union represented one-third of Czechoslovak foreign trade. This share began to decrease as the price of crude oil and other raw materials began to decline because the Soviet side lacked a sufficient source of counter-deliveries to pay for Czechoslovak exports. Therefore, the USSR was provided with a credit of two billion transferable rubles and again in 1990 Czechoslovakia created another high credit balance. Thus, over the past years, Czechoslovak trade with the USSR was kept at the level requested by enterprises only by providing credits that did not correspond to our possibilities.

However, the transition to settling accounts in convertible currencies and the transfer to world-market conditions dramatically changed the situation. The trade relations contract and the payment agreement reached with so many difficulties provide—with a questionable level of commitment—for exports in the amount of approximately 30 percent of last year's exports. The lack of clarity in defining jurisdiction in the USSR (union vs republics vs oblasts) and the central management of convertible currency complicate all agreements below the government level. It is quite realistic to expect that exports to the USSR will represent 50 percent of last year's volume at the most.

There were also problems in relations with other countries of the former Eastern bloc, particularly with the former GDR. Interest in Czechoslovak goods declined sharply following the currency union with the result that the trade balance here ended with a deficit of approximately three-quarters of a billion transferable rubles, which considering the very unrealistic exchange rate included in the state contract (2.34 marks = 1 transferable ruble), means a reduction of our exports by more than a billion dollars.

This January, the total volume of exports to all former communist countries represented only 47 percent of last year's level. In addition to the limited ability of these countries to pay, there is the negative impact of the transition from a prompt (clearing type of) payment for our goods—particularly for mechanical engineering products—to providing appropriate credits as is common in the world market, for which Czechoslovakia lacks funds. The Ministry of Foreign Trade estimates the amount of these additional credit resources at 65 to 80 billion korunas.

Despite considerable export stimulation resulting from a triple devaluation of the koruna, exports to the developed Western states could not be markedly increased. It is obvious that all the pro-export measures as well as the more favorable political climate and conditions for exporting to the West in themselves cannot bring about a turn for the better in a situation where products are lacking in quality and attractiveness. Orientation toward the markets of developing countries then—similarly to the former communist countries—is very demanding in the area of credit funds, which simply are not available in the CSFR.

The external marketing crisis of Czechoslovak goods is transferred and augmented by reduced internal demand. It is demonstrated by a 35-percent decrease in construction activity as compared with last year and in an unprecedented decline in personal consumption—over the first two months the physical volume of retail turnover declined by approximately 25 percent. The restrictions imposed on state expenditures result particularly in the decline of orders received by the armament industry and by some other industries as well (for example, railroad transport).

Of course, the primary and most significant issue is the marketing crisis in exports: The overcoming of this crisis would be reflected in revitalizing the domestic demand.

II/2. Subjective Factors

As already mentioned, the petition attributes responsibility for the present state (for the insolvency) of our industry exclusively to the activity of the federal government. It leads to the remarkable idea of "the absence of the state in creating the material national-economic goals and a clear definition of the role of enterprises in attaining these goals." Hence, the government is accused of not doing and not wanting to do what has historically been the main cause of the fail of the planned economy. The demand that "a state concept of the development of the national economy be drafted" cannot be realized any other way but by returning to the directive plan. Thus, the government consciously admits that it has not fulfilled these theses. Moreover, should it attempt to act in the manner indicated, it would be parting with its concept of the reform and the concept of a road toward the market economy in general.

The restrictive currency, credit, and financial policies are described as the main error made by the federal government. Again, the very basis of one of the supporting pillars of the reform is attacked, and this time it is one that is explicitly included in the policy statement, in the economic reform scenario, and in other official and published government documents. It seems that a consensus was reached in Czechoslovakia that the main danger to the reform process is inflation, and therefore, while following the basic macroeconomic goals, the government prefers to block the inflationary process and disallow the inflationary spiral. A deviation from the restriction, i.e., pumping money into the economy, would immediately result in additional, and this time unbearable, pressure on the permanent growth of prices. The monetary policy of the Soviet Union over the past years should be a warning signal to us.

Similarly, the complaints regarding the general impact of the restrictive policy are questionable. The credit restriction—just like any other macroeconomic tool—cannot be implemented in anything but a general way. The government does not assume the right to decide on the fate of a particular enterprise. However, precisely when one uses the general approach—i.e., the same rules for everybody—one cannot destroy a good enterprise. After all, even the authority granted to the government by the Constitution does not allow for anything but "a general" policy.

The financial restriction was in fact much softer in 1990 than intended by the Federal Assembly, and it has been just as soft in the first months of 1991. The surplus of last year's state budgets did not reach the planned 5.4 billion korunas by far, and this year, thanks to subsidies of the fuel and power complex, the budget is in the red.

The purpose of this statement is not to create an impression that the government's economic policy has been flawless and precise at all times. When commercializing the permanently maintained stock credits (last year), the government together with the Czechoslovak State Bank apparently overestimated the solvency of the enterprises, and special terms had to be applied to the credits. Of course, it is difficult to demand that such an action be conducted at a time like last fall, for instance, when as a result of speculations the stock grew fast, thus indicating a sufficient supply of money in the enterprise sphere. To relieve credit restrictions at a time like that would be paradoxical. One can consider the undoubted delay in drafting and adopting the law on bankruptcy and liquidation of enterprises to be a government error.

The criticism of the government also implies criticism of the operation of the commercial banks, which are, however, independent in their decisions from the government and to a great extent also from the Czechoslovak State Bank. It is a fact that in some cases the credit policy of the commercial banks made the macroeconomic framework of the restrictive currency policy stricter even to the point of being unbearable. However, the commercial banks are enterprises with a goal: to gain profit. Therefore, it is not surprising that in the present situation they are particularly careful and refuse to risk giving a credit to enterprises that lack a clear program with good prospects, which would guarantee repayment.

No doubt, the Czechoslovak commercial banks are very poorly equipped in the material as well as in the personnel sphere. Quantitatively, (in comparison with world standards) the staff should at least be tripled and, above all, the style of work should change substantially. After all, the commercial banks, not the government, are precisely the institutions providing the required individual and "not generalizing" input to the economy. With respect to the unfeasibility of such a rapid, albeit necessary, transformation in the operation of our commercial banks, the Czechoslovak State Bank according to an agreement with the government relaxed the stipulations for the operation of foreign banks. The need for such a step is far greater than eventual risks connected with it.

The Petition by the Unions of Industry absolutely singlemindedly disregards the factor of independent activity by the enterprises, for they are largely responsible for their own insolvency. First, in the expectation of a

devaluation and price increases, the enterprises used all available funds to stock up on materials.

The Czechoslovak economy has been famous for operating with disproportionately high stock and for its slow turnover. However, in 1990—especially toward the end of the year—this already high inventory grew in an unparalleled way. The inventory in industry increased by 31 billion korunas (a year earlier only by 4 billion) and as a result of the interpenetration of all spheres, this growth of stock itself became the main cause of the current insolvency. The enterprises simply behaved like the population, anticipating price increases—they bought what they could. This is confirmed by the fact that the main part of the increased inventory is in production supplies (material, unfinished goods) rather than in marketable goods.

Similar reasoning was behind the rush payment of foreign debts. It was motivated by an effort to rid oneself of Czechoslovak currency and in turn it contributed to the second devaluation of the koruna. True, such conduct on the part of the enterprises brings short-term advantages, but in the term of several months, the enterprises endangered their own existence.

The grievous situation was further complicated at the beginning of 1991 by the enterprises charging one another disproportionately high wholesale prices. In February, prices charged by producers were 47 percent higher than in December 1990 and that is substantially more than would naturally result from the devaluation. It is certainly reflected in increases in the retail prices of industrial goods, which apparently does not cause the difficulties with domestic marketing, about which the industrial enterprises complain as well.

Only a few enterprises attempted to deal with the burdensome financial situation by reducing costs, restructuring the enterprise, and lowering the number of redundant staff. The payment of wages still takes priority over the payments to suppliers, which certainly must be reflected in the insolvency of the enterprises.

It is necessary to emphasize again that the fundamental cause of the grievous situation of Czechoslovak enterprises is not the restrictive policy. Anything other than a restrictive policy would indefinitely postpone the solution to the most important problems of the enterprises, namely penetrating the foreign market, improving the effectiveness of production, or reducing the disproportionate inventory. Particularly at a time when the producers with a monopoly position regard price liberalization as an appeal for price shocks, an insufficiently restrictive policy would stimulate the uncontrolled rise of inflation.

III. Government Activity—What the Government Has Done and Can Do To Improve the Situation of the Enterprises

The federal government does not disclaim responsibility for the state of the economy. However, it should not deal with all the problems of the enterprise sphere, a fact that was emphasized recently by the redistribution of powers in favor of the republican governments. The task of the federal government (in cooperation with the bank) is to provide the framework and the conditions for an operating market economy.

If we are to assess the operation of the federal government from this point of view, it is obvious that on the whole, a protective attitude has been dominant in relation to the enterprises. Namely, the consequences of the economic policy have a much greater impact on the population than on the enterprises. The government is certainly aware of the fact that it must prevent a disintegration of the economy, but at the same time, one cannot indefinitely pass the burden of the reform on just to the people or rather by passing both increasing external as well as internal debts on to future generations.

A typical example illustrating the above claims are the consequences of the triple devaluation of the koruna. The devaluation, introduced to bring about the market exchange rate and to provide the opportunity for introduction of an internal convertibility, markedly improved the situation of the enterprises. This was demonstrated, among other things, by the profit of the economic organizations, which until the third quarter fluctuated around 95 percent of last year's level and in the fourth quarter reached 136 percent. The main part of this increase came as a result of the increased profit from foreign trade, which grew by 17 billion korunas in 1990, while the profit from the domestic economy declined by almost 8 billion korunas.

It is typical that the petition by the unions of industry does not even mention this clearly pro-export measure beneficial for the enterprises. Similarly, it disregards another protectionist measure, which the introduction of the 20 percent import tax on all consumer goods purchased for commercial purposes certainly is for the Czechoslovak producer. The protection and "survival" of the internal economy prevailed in the government decision over the negative consequences brought about by these measures by way of increased domestic prices paid by the ultimate user, i.e. the population.

The petition, numerous comments, and criticism focus on the payment of high interest on provided credits. The rate of interest, exceeding 20 percent, really is much higher than ever before. However, the decisive factor here is its relation to the rate of inflation. It is this relation that is by far the most favorable phenomenon for the enterprises and it does not at all indicate a restrictive, but rather a liberal policy allowing access to "cheap" money. A negative rate of interest [interest rate less than inflation], particularly at the Czechoslovak level of implementation is an exceptional phenomenon in today's world. (Footnote 1) (For instance, in Great Britain today, the 13 percent interest rate on credits is sharply criticized; of course, the level of inflation in that country is 9 percent.) It can exist only for a short time,

otherwise it would lead to mass deposit withdrawals (which in fact are taking place in Czechoslovakia) and to endangering the stability of the rate of exchange (the efforts to transfer the domestic deposits bearing low interest to "hard" currencies).

The reduction of interest rates can be expected as the rate of inflation declines. As long as the growth of prices does not stop, a new increase in the interest rates on credit must occur.

At the end of February—basically in accord with the demands stated in the petition—the credits on the permanently maintained stock were separated from the current commercial credits, and they were transferred to the administration of the newly founded Consolidation Bank. This involves 80 percent of the credits on the permanently maintained stock in the state manufacturing enterprises and 50 percent in cooperatives, marketing and supplying organizations (equipped by own resources to a greater extent). The total sum is 120 billion korunas covered by a redistribution of the commercial-bank credits and by the resources of saving banks and insurance companies. The expected interest rate is 13 percent and life of the credits is eight years.

The petition criticizes the government for the belated introduction of the "Operation TOZ" [trvale se obracejici zasoby; permanently maintained stock]. It is necessary to note here that it is not at all a painless operation without any negative consequences. The extremely low interest rate (3 to 4 percent over the prime rate) prevents an increase of the interest paid on deposits to the required level and thereby counters the main source of credit in the Czechoslovak economy. The present state, which on first sight seems an effective assistance to the enterprises, could eventually lead to an absolute shortage of credit funds (above all, deposits of the population) and make the situation even worse than it is now. It is again necessary to draw attention to the fact that the soft and protectionist policy of a negative interest rate for the enterprises is reflected in the reduction of the living standard of the population by a rapid decline in the buying power of savings, which might, among other things, influence also the privatization process.

The Petition demands funds for dealing with the debts of the foreign trade enterprises and the organizations suffering as a result of the developments on the international scene. This involves a combination of factors, some of which are absolutely outside the realm of the government's influence (reunification of Germany, the state of Eastern European economies), partially inherited from the past, however, without the appropriate resources for dealing with them (ecological construction, outstanding foreign credits, outstanding debts on past investments), and only some of them can be dealt within the framework of existing resources. This applies, for instance, to the consequences of the blockade of Iraq in accordance with the government resolution 60/1991 or the assistance in the conversion of the armament industry, for which the same amount as last year is reserved in the federal budget. In addition, 3 billion korunas worth of financial guarantees were provided for the enterprises hit by the conversion, as well as 4 billion korunas worth of refundable assistance.

Some ideas and requests concerning solutions for the financial situation of the enterprises reveal a lack of knowledge of economic rules. One example is the "immediate introduction of credits for outstanding debts until the date of payment." This means requesting something that has never been canceled. It is up to the commercial banks for whom they provide a credit and for whom they will not. The government cannot tell the banks how to operate. Similarly, the request "to allow for a down payment billing following partial shipments on large investment projects" is questionable. The edict of the Federal Ministry of Finance 37/1983 on billing and paying for shipments in capital investment was rescinded by an amendment to the economic code. Article 375 of the economic code then implies that the terms for payment, down payment, or deposits depend entirely on agreement between the contracting partners.

Regarding the creation of legislative conditions favorable to economic development, the law on extrajudicial rehabilitation (restitution law) and the law on transfers of property (transformation law) have already been passed. The law on bankruptcy and liquidation of enterprises was so far discussed in the Government Economic Council. The complete reform of the system of taxation in accordance with the economic-reform scenario will come into effect on 1 January 1993, and because of its complexity, it would not be realistic to expect it to be implemented any faster.

The transformation law must be taken as the principal legislative norm allowing the accelerated influx of foreign capital. The government is making an effort to remove—as quickly as possible—the remaining legislative obstacles by drafting amendments to relevant laws or, as the case may be, by drafting new laws (commercial code, etc.). At the federal level—as well as at the republican level—government agencies have been established in support of foreign investments. Enterprises are allowed to acquire credit directly from foreign banks. This is a brief overview of the government's activities in support of the entrepreneurial sphere.

On the other hand, it is also necessary to say clearly what the government does not want to do and what it will not do in any case. Above all, it will not accept the concept of "individual debt elimination" [individualni oddluzovani] in the case of enterprises, which—if implemented to the extent given in the Petition—would correspond to a total elimination of debt. Irrespective of the shortage of resources needed to carry out such an operation (to whose detriment should it be done?), the selective attitude [demanded in the Petition]—which is, in principle, identical to the former breakdown of plan indicators for individual enterprises—runs counter to the principles of economic reform. The suggestions about the temporary customs protection of some branches, about individual

directives in a form of state purchase orders, or, finally, about subsidies, belong to the same category. For example, allowing individual subsidies to selected enterprises that have good prospects would mean that a number of organizations would try to persuade the government that they have good prospects, because this would be easier for them than to persuade the market or the banks about the same thing. Moreover, a state subsidy is more advantageous than a bank loan.

IV. Summary

The government is fully aware of the seriousness of the present economic situation. In contrast to the more and more frequently expressed opinions and criticism, the government has a principally different opinion about the main causes of the present situation and, therefore, it also has a different opinion about the corrective methods. The government considers that the main reason for the present economic problems is the serious marketing crisis caused, on the one hand, by CEMA's disintegration and, on the other, by the inability of Czechoslovak enterprises to efficiently switch their exports to other territories. However, the enterprises' own myopic and speculative policy (enormous growth of inventories, the misuse of the liberalization of prices) has also significantly contributed the financial problems that have appeared.

It is indisputable that the transformation of the Czechoslovak economy (and industry in particular) requires capital. Despite a significant increase (of approximately 60 billion korunas) in credit resources in the first quarter, it will not even be possible to cover those requirements of the production and foreign trade sectors that were substantiated in an objective manner. Domestic resources are simply nonexistent and printing inflationary money is out of the question. That is why the government and the State Bank embarked on the road of significant liberalization of access of foreign industrial and banking capital to Czechoslovakia.

Within the framework of existing possibilities, government policy toward enterprises cannot be regarded as overly restrictive. On the contrary, protectionist measures and measures stimulating economic activity are under preparation (devaluation, low interest rates, etc.). People very often forget that in the economy it is not possible to adopt simple and unequivocally positive measures alone—for example, to increase credit ceilings [urokove ramce], to provide subsidies, to selectively eliminate debts, to grant reliefs, etc. We must always ask who will be at a disadvantage when we undertake such actions. If it becomes evident that there are reserves in other enterprises, in budgetary expenses (for health care, social payments, ecology, security, etc.), or even in the private consumption of the population , then, of course, the governments can put into practice some of the measures [demanded in the Petition] to the benefit of industry. However, today the federal government is of the opinion that we simply do not have such reserves. The Federal Government is also of the opinion that we must not allow any further significant indebtedness (internal or external), that is, falling into debt at the expense of future generations.

The Government does not consider the Union of Industry's evaluation for the causes for the situation in our industry or the measures suggested by the Union of Industry to be relevant. Accepting them would mean abandoning our road toward a market economy and abandoning the intentions of our economic reform. The Federal Assembly obligated the Government to follow this road, that is, the government has received a mandate from the citizens of this country to fulfill this task.

Calfa, Trade Union Chiefs Discuss Issues

LD0304210191 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1800 GMT 3 Apr 91

["Briefing" by Marian Calfa, CSFR prime minister; Roman Kovac, Czech and Slovak Trade Union Confederation Chairman; and Jan Krtitel Sykora, Arts and Culture Confederation chairman, in Kolodeje on 3 April—recorded]

[Text] [Calfa, in Slovak] I invited both trade union chairmen to the talks here in Kolodeje in their full representation. They were attended on our side by the government and on their side by their presidiums. I think it was very useful that we were fully represented in this way, because the course of the talks really showed that there really were things to discuss.

The agenda consisted of two items. The first was the report on the economic situation drawn up and presented to the Federal Assembly by the federal government. We had also presented that report to the trade union representatives, who commented on it yesterday in writing. Today the report was the subject of discussion all morning, in fact. The second item on the agenda was the general agreement—what it contains and how it is being implemented, and in this context the federal government made two points: First, it endorses the general agreement, it feels bound by the general agreement, it considers it an instrument that serves as a guarantee for the course of social development and for matters that need to be guaranteed between the members of the three sides; in other words, the government, representatives of employees, and representatives of employers.

The government also noted that it has issued a government ordinance, retroactively effective from 1 February, which guarantees one of the articles of the agreement: Article 10 on the minimum wage of 2,000 korunas. This article of the general agreement, however, contains a certain system of uprating the wage according to certain conditions, and the federal government made a proposal at today's meeting that this article on uprating the wage should be reformulated in a certain way. We reached mutual agreement that a working group will be set up, including representatives of other parties to the agreement at both federal and republican level, and that we will finalize this matter in some way during April. The federal government takes the view that if

the system of uprating were to continue as currently stipulated, we could reach the stage where it would not be possible to guarantee and pay that minimum wage at the uprated level.

[Kovac, in Slovak] I am very pleased that the prime minister has said what he has, because you know that among trade unionists and among yourselves, representatives of the media, the view had emerged that the general agreement would be canceled or that parties would withdraw from it. It has been clearly confirmed that the general agreement is, indeed, a fundamental document. It has been clearly declared that the general agreement has made a significant contribution to ensuring social calm in our state, because it represents definite guarantees.

At the same time, however, attention was drawn to certain matters whereby the general agreement is not being implemented fully in accord with its contents. In many cases this is not because of an unwillingness to implement it, but because of technical obstacles in issuing certain regulations. Here it is primarily a matter of support for those seeking work, support for jobseekers, support for those who have been made redundant for organizatonal reasons. We reached the view that the level of the minimum wage as set is the right one.

The second issue is in what way Article 5 will be reformulated—this is an area dealing with the minimum wage and uprating it. A number of possibilities were proposed for tackling this issue. It is clear that a decision can be made only by the Tripartite Council. We, of course, must discuss the whole matter in our branch organizations and trade unions and prepare a proposal that will be acceptable to all.

[Sykora] We came here basically to agree to reach an agreement, because it would probably have been impossible to do any more than that in the present composition since the third tripartite party—the employers—was not here. We think that it may be necessary to alter the structure of the minimum wage, to proceed from the (?existential) minimum and add something—say 20 percent, that is (?restricted) together with the (?existential) minimum. Otherwise for me this has been, I think, a successful day by and large, because we agreed that organizations partly funded by the budget will continue to be seen as budget-subsidized business organizations. That, I think, is a great victory, especially for a number of organizations in the arts and culture.

Calfa Interviewed on Current Issues

LD0504204691 Prague Federal I Television Network in Czech 1750 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Interview with Czechoslovak Prime Minister Marian Calfa by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—live or recorded; reporter speaks in Czech, Calfa in Slovak]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, very few decisions of the government have provoked such unequivocal opposition and such great criticism as its decision on a 22-percent tax on press and periodical publications. Regarding the situation thus created—is it because journalists wrongly understood the government's decision, or is it caused by the government's insistence on its wrong decision?

[Calfa] [passage omitted] I would like to stress that this issue is not closed, as we decided that the Presidium will meet the representatives of journalists and that we will discuss the entire issue with them and come to a conclusion only after such a discussion.

[Reporter] Some time ago I promised that we would return to the issue of increased prices for energy and heating. [passage omitted]

[Calfa] I would like to point out first of all that the government did not increase those prices; the government removed the subsidies that used to be given to the enterprises producing heat energy or mining coal or supplying gas, which are subsequently turned into heat energy. [passage omitted]

There are several categories of consumers of heat energy—individual consumers with family houses, or those who heat their accommodation by themselves, and these will simply regulate their consumption according to their means. Those citizens who depend on remote heating—those living in apartment blocks, etc.—are in a worse position. Nevertheless, a regulation will be issued valid from 1 May that has two parts. The first one states that if somebody installs metering equipment in his place, then he can be charged only for the quantity registered by the metering equipment. Those who do not install such equipment in their places will be charged only up to the norm payment set by a legal regulation. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Important talks with trade unions took place this week. The talks at first gave the impression of being very dramatic and full of conflict, but the impression in the end was that social peace had been preserved after all and that many things had been agreed on. What do you consider to be the key issue of these talks, the decisive one in these tripartite relations?

[Calfa] A clause was included in the general agreement that we opposed since the beginning: the concept of the minimum wage. This would not be so bad in itself, but the issue is its continuous valorization. Time has shown that the Federal Government was right, that this clause is something our economy is simply unable to cope with. That is why on the basis of the assessment of the development up to this time we opened the question of the valorization of the minimum wage. As from 1 February it is in fact given as 2,000 korunas [Kcs], and if the valorization included in the agreement is observed, then as of 1 May the minimum wage would be Kcs2,630. Czechoslovakia simply does not have enough resources for a minimum wage of Kcs2,630. [passage omitted]

That is why we opened this issue, and the representatives of the trade unions acknowledged it, and during April we will hold talks about this. It will be necessary for all the partners, all nine of them, to meet and discuss the issue. If everything goes well, we will propose that this clause be removed from the general agreement—I mean the clause about the valorization.

[Reporter] My last question today is about your view regarding various opposition platforms and stances on economic reform. [passage omitted]

[Calfa] It is really puzzling that alternative variants are being proposed by political forces that are in the government coalition. From the political point of view, this is a rather absurd situation. I think that they have to take their share of responsibility for the government's actions if they take part in its work. If they feel unhappy with the government's work, then they have only one option: simply leave the government. [passage omitted]

Life is really very dynamic; it is developing, both external and internal conditions are changing, and the government does not say that it is not going to change some parts of its blueprint. What is important for us is to preserve its fundamental philosophy, its main guideline, and as life changes, we are going to adjust individual steps. It means that we study all those proposals and learn from them. If they include something that is in harmony with the guidelines of our program statement, then we see no problem in adopting it.

Nevertheless, another thing is that there are alternative blueprints that are simply about different economic reform, about different policy, and this is something else. [passage omitted]

Government Approves Credit for Railways

AU0804154291 Prague CTK in English 2024 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Prague April 4 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Cabinet agreed today to guarantee a bank credit to Czechoslovak railways to solve the "alarming state" of the country's rail service.

According to a communique on a regular session of the Federal Cabinet, the latest problems have resulted mainly from increases in fuel and energy prices for passenger service.

The Cabinet dealt again with the issue of a 22-percent turnover tax on the print media although it was not on its agenda. It was decided that members of the Federal Government Presidium, representatives of the Czech and Slovak Governments, and the journalists' unions will meet to clarify the matter because in the government's opinion the measure's "original intention was misinterpreted in the press".

(Publishers and journalists have protested against the tax. In a communique on last week's Cabinet session, which upheld its earlier decision, the government said that newspapers and other periodicals facing financial problems may receive subsidies from the government or individual organizations if the latter "take an interest in the continued existence of particular newspapers and magazines". The government has since been criticized that such subsidies would allow it to influence the press.)

The Cabinet specified today that it does not intend for subsidies to be granted to the political press. "The government is decidedly not interested in any form of censorship or in affecting the plurality of views. Government subsidies are envisaged in quite exceptional cases, e.g. for the press of the ethnic minorities", the communique said.

The government approved the termination of industrial copyright agreements which were motivated by unification within COMECON and are no longer warranted. Czechoslovakia is now engaged in talks on a new multilateral accord within the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), to be signed next June, the communique noted.

The Cabinet recommended that the parliament adopt legislation on the Federal Information Service (intelligence). A proposal has already been made by a group of deputies. The government recommends that the law conform to the new concept of Czechoslovakia's defense, security and foreign policy and its military and security doctrine.

A proposal that the government guarantee a credit for the 1991 Universal Czechoslovak Exhibition was rejected and the government said the matter will be taken up again together with the Czech and Slovak Governments and the local Prague authorities. The exhibition is scheduled to run from May to October 1991.

Czechoslovak Social Democrats Reelect Chairman

LD0704200391 Prague CTK in English 1827 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Ostrava April 7 (CTK)—Jiri Horak was re-elected chairman and Jozef Wagner was elected general secretary of the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party [CSSD] by the party's 25th congress here today.

Horak told journalists that to be successful in the next parliamentary elections to be held in 1992 his party must win support of those who elected last year the Civic Forum and who will hesitate to vote a rightist party as well as certain votes from those who voted communist in the past.

Referring to six deputies who were elected last year to the Czechoslovak parliament as representatives of the Civic Forum and who now became members of the Social Democratic Party Horak said that though some of them had been Communists they parted with communism 22 years ago.

In his opening speech delivered at the congress yesterday Horak fully supported Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel. "We needn't agree with him in everything but we know that in this period uneasy for our fragile democracy President Havel is often the only link which holds this democracy and Republic together and this is why we stand by him in all decisive questions", he said.

Horak further stressed this his party believes that a common state of Czechs and Slovaks, respecting the freedom of personality and identity of other nationalities on the territory of Czechoslovakia, corresponds with the interests of the two nations as well as with the democratic and the only hopeful integration into the European communities and the whole democratic world.

Horak explained the relation of his party to the Communist Party and excluded any cooperation or alliance saying that the aims of the two parties have always been absolutely different.

Horak described as vitally important the program of a radical reform but said one of the conditions is the transformation of ownership relations creating the basis for the introduction of social market economy.

Social Democrats in Exile Leave Congress

LD0704220991 Prague CTK in English 1922 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Ostrava April 7 (CTK)—A delegation of the Czechoslovak Social Democracy in Exile walked out of the Social Democratic Party congress in Ostrava today in protest against rapprochement between the party leadership and ex-members of the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

Chairman of the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party in Exile Karel Hruby and another seven members of the delegation issued a statement criticizing the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party for left deviations and expressions of social and nationalist demagogy.

National Social Party Ends Assembly Membership

LD0604195691 Prague CTK in English 1613 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Prague April 6 (CTK)—The Central Executive Committee of the National Social Party decided by a majority of votes today to end its membership of the extraparliamentary assembly. The assembly was set up on July 30, 1990 and associates parties which are not represented in the Czechoslovak federal parliament. The National Social Party left the assembly as the assembly demands the dissolution of parliament while the National Social Party says it was elected in regular elections and only demands its due functioning. The National Social Party broke away from the Czechoslovak Socialist Party on September 8, 1990 and is now organized on a state wide level. Today's session voiced support for a unique Czechoslovak state and stressed the idea of patriotism. It also called for clear records of political officials but considers screening only a subsidiary instrument.

Republican Party Rally Held in Plzen

LD0604215791 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1630 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] A rally took place in the Plzen Republic Square this afternoon that was organized by the Association for the Republic - Republican Party of Czechoslovakia. Jaroslav Hudec reports:

[Hudec] The main protagonist was the chairman of the party, Miroslav Sladek, who said that this was the sixth such large rally recently. There was basically nothing new in his speech. A fundamental demand is the resignation of the whole present government and the calling of new legislative elections. His vocabulary is becoming traditional; for example, communist-StB [State Security]-OF [Civic Forum]-mafia, 17 November was a puppet show, and so on. He did not forget to describe practically every one of our current politicians, possibly with the exception of the president of the Republic, as comrade. Even Federal Minister of Finance Vaclav Klaus did not escape this fate. It is difficult to estimate the number of participants in the rally, as it took place in a large open space, but in any event there were several thousands of them, and many statements made by Mr. Sladek were accompanied by applause. Judging by their reaction, I think that they agreed with the speaker on many points.

The presence of the Plzen Romanies at the demonstration was ironic. The location, the central square in the historic center of Plzen, is their favorite camping place. It was ironic because it is precisely the Association for the Republic-Republican Party of Czechoslovakia that does not hide its attitude toward this ethnic group. Today's rally in Plzen was no exception in this sense.

RSC Official Calls For Revolution

LD0804002991 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2000 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] A rally organized by the Association for the Republic - Republican Party of Czechoslovakia [RSC] took place in Usti nad Labem today. The dissolution of all three legislatures, resignation of governments, and early legislative elections were demanded there. Party Chairman Miroslav Sladek in his address returned to his statement about a march on Prague and sweeping it all to the Vltava. In his opinion, the time is approaching. If next Saturday, 13 April, things should get a bit out of hand, then by evening the Castle could be ours, he said. In his opinion, the current Czechoslovak leadership has managed in the past year to finish destroying all that which the communists did not manage to destoy in 40 years. He criticized the legislature and the progress of economic reform, and he called November 1989 a

puppet show. Miroslav Sladek appealed for a true revolution to be carried out instead of the—in his opinion—staged velvet revolution.

ODA Opposes Czech-Slovak Treaty

AU0804154191 Prague CTK in English 1636 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Prague April 4 (CTK)—The idea of either a confederation or a treaty between the Czech and Slovak Republics with the division of powers based on national principles is unacceptable, said Daniel Kroupa, vice chairperson of the Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA), at a press conference today.

In a functioning federation, the laws of the republics must be subordinated to federal norms, Kroupa said. If not, then that decision must be left to the Slovaks themselves, as Czech politicians do not want to govern Slovakia.

The ODA is a political party that ran on the Civic Forum (OF) slate in the June 1990 elections. With the split of the OF into two factions on February 23, the ODA became independent. One of its newest members is Economics Minister Vladimir Dlouhy.

According to Kroupa, the ODA rejects any form of "camouflaged coexistence" between the Czech and Slovak Republics. The party favors the minimum requirements for a functioning federation i.e. currency, finance, defense, foreign policy and basic economic instruments should all be left to the federation.

The views of Slovak politicians such as Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar, who talk about a specifically Slovak approach to the economy, are unacceptable, said ODA member and vice chairperson of the Czech parliament Jan Kalvoda.

Asked about the possibility of a coalition between the ODA and Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus's Civic Democratic Party (ODS), Kroupa said the ODS has not yet clearly formulated its program and a coalition is not currently being considered.

Responding to the government's decision last Friday to retain a 22 percent turnover tax on periodicals introduced in January, ODA said it rejects all discriminatory measures by the government towards the press. The OF parliamentary group intends to demand an explanation from the government of how it plans to decide which periodicals it will subsidize and a detailed economic justification for its decision to retain the tax.

The ODA also expressed dissatisfaction with the way in which Richard Seemann was named as the new manager of Czechoslovak Radio earlier this week. The fact that there was no political consultation before the decision was taken was unjustifiable, said Deputy Michal Prokop, though he stressed that ODA was criticizing the manner of Mr. Seemann's appointment and not Mr. Seemann himself.

Moravia, Silesia Favor United Republic

LD0804155191 Prague CTK in English 1220 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Brno April 8 (CTK)—"The majority of the population of Moravia and Silesia are for a united Moravian-Silesian republic within the framework of a tripartite federation", the leader of the Movement for Self-Governing Democracy-Society for Moravia and Silesia (HSD-SMS), Boleslav Barta, said at a press conference today.

Barta based his assertion on the results of a questionnaire sent out by the HSD-SMS to 75 districts in the Czech Republic.

In the 55 districts that responded to the survey, 53 percent of individual respondents said they favoured a federal setup for the Czechoslovak state. 65 percent of Moravian respondents supported a federative arrangement. More than one half of the 3,890 people surveyed in Moravia and Silesia declared themselves as being of Moravian nationality.

"HSD-SMS is for a unified state, not for the breakup of Czechoslovakia", Barta said. "But people have to decide their fate themselves". He added that the HSD-SMS thinks Slovakia should remain part of a unified state.

The president of the Brno HSD-SMS town council, Otakar Konsbul, confirmed the movement's support for screening members of parliament for past collaboration with the secret police, but added, "all the names must be made public, not just those of persons who are burdensome to the leaders of the state".

HSD-SMS To Take 'Legal Action' Against Club

AU0704161491 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 3 Apr 91 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Statement by the Movement for Self-Governing Democracy-Society for Moravia and Silesia: Rightful and Not Rightful"]

[Text] The Coordinating Center of the Movement for Self-Governing Democracy-Society for Moravia and Silesia [HSD-SMS] issued a statement in response to the statement of the "non-rightful" HSD-SMS Club in the Federal Assembly that called into question the confidence expressed by the HSD-SMS Land Council in Deputy B. Barta and Deputy V. Tomis. The statement labels this club as illegitimate and incompetent because it is made up, on the one hand, of deputies who have been forbidden to speak in the name of the movement and, on the other, of deputies who have refused to join the rightful HSD-SMS Club. The HSD-SMS intends to take legal action to enforce the banning of the "non-rightful" club.

Newspaper Gets New Name, Publisher

AU0604203991

[Editorial Report] The 3 April issue of Prague ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech is published with a new masthead, designating the newspaper as CESKE AND MORAVSKOSLEZSKE ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY (CZECH AND MORAVIAN-SILESIAN ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY). In the same issue, on pages 1 and 2, the newspaper carries a 1,000-word statement by the ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY editorial staff explaining the circumstances of the change. The statement is published under the headline "Scenario in the Spirit of Totalitarianism; The Dirty Political Contest for ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY Has Reached Its Peak."

In the statement, ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY journalists reiterate that "a newspaper linked in any way with party or state bodies is an anachronism in the democratic world." Because in more than one year of negotiations it was impossible to reach an agreement with the newspaper's present publisher, the Czech Ministry of Agriculture, the ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY staff decided to set up a shareholding company to achieve independence. All ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY employees have reportedly joined this private company. They announce that this shareholding company, called "ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY—First Land Shareholding Company," went into operation on 1 April 1991.

The statement of the ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY editorial staff emphasizes that no property of the ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY state enterprise, which is estimated at 30 million korunas, has been transferred to the new company and that "our CESKE A MORAVSKOSLEZSKE ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY is starting from scratch, with our savings, skills, and talents being its only small capital."

In their statement, the ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY journalists accuse Czech Minister of Agriculture B. Kubat of having resorted to "all means," including the attempt to "block the distribution of ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY," to prevent the newspaper's independence. They suspect that "the independence of ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY is in the way of the Czechoslovak People's Party [CSL]—Christian Democratic Party [KDH] coalition, for which [the CSL daily] LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE no longer represents a satisfactory and promising platform for influencing public opinion, in view of its steadily declining print run," and that it would like to "replenish its dried up party coffers" with profits from the publication of ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY. The ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY journalists see their suspicion confirmed in the appointment of R. Majzlik, a CSL member, to the post of ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY director and in "Minister Kubat's promise to P. Kacer from LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE that he will become ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY chief editor."

In concluding, the ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY journalists warn their readers that an attempt may still be made to launch a rival "ministerial ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY": "Yesterday Mr. Kacer appeared in our printing plant and demanded that it print some sort of a four-page ministerial ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY, with which the editorial office, as you know, has nothing in common." Although the printing plant refused to comply, the ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY journalists warn that "the struggle is not over" and that the 3 April issue may actually be "our last opportunity to prepare for you the newspaper as you know it, with absolute independence as its goal."

Czech Republic Delegation Visits Austria

WA0804195691

For reportage on the visit by a delegation headed by Czech Republic Prime Minister Petr Pithart to Austria, including reports on his talks with several provincial governors, President Kurt Waldheim, Vice Chancellor Josef Riegler, and Foreign Minister Alois Mock, see the Austria section of the 8 April West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

VPN Slovak Council Meets on ZDS Faction

LD0604194491 Prague CTK in English 1354 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Bratislava April 6 (CTK)—The necessity to expose the causes and protagonists of the split in the Public Against Violence (VPN) movement was underlined by the VPN Slovak Council Chairman Fedor Gal at the Council's meeting today. The meeting held in the West Slovak town of Trencianske Teplice is also attended by Czechoslovak Federal Premier Marian Calfa and Chairman of the Slovak parliament Frantisek Miklosko. The VPN split up at the beginning of last March after Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar accused the VPN leadership of attempts to censor his regular TV addresses. At the March 6 session of the VPN Slovak Council a new faction emerged around Meciar, calling itself VPN-For Democratic Slovakia [ZDS] and appealing for the restoration of the original character and aims of the movement. At its extraordinary session held on March 16, the VPN Slovak Council declared that Meciar and Slovak External Relations Minister Milan Knazko do not represent the VPN Movement at the posts to which they had been proposed by the Council and accused them of activities provoking conflicts not only in the movement but also in the society as a whole and in relations with other coalition partners at both the Slovak and federal levels. Fedor Gal told the session today that the VPN-For Democratic Slovakia faction was not constituted in a legal way but now exists as a reality on the current Slovak political scene. He refused the views that the VPN has deviated in its policy to the right and stressed that the movement remains on the positions of liberal centre. Czechoslovak Premier Marian Calfa in his address recalled that none of the four federal ministers—representatives of the VPN in the Czechoslovak Government—supports the newly set up

faction. However, he admitted that the split in the movement influences to a certain extent the activities of the Federal Government, particularly as regards the blueprint of the economic reform.

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The Public Against Violence Movement (VPN) will most probably split officially at an extraordinary congress of the movement to be held in Kosice, East Slovakia, on April 27, according to a resolution passed by the movement's session today. The document states that the movement split by the establishment of the faction VPN-For Democratic Slovakia (ZDS) after the official breakaway the new bodies of the VPN and the grouping For Democratic Slovakia will agree on mutual cooperation. For the time being the Presidium of the VPN Slovak Council will be the partner of the ZDS. Chairman of the VPN Slovak Council Fedor Gal told journalists that the split of the VPN is a reality and must therefore be legalized. ZDS representative Michal Kovac described the resolution as admissible.

Gal Comments on VPN Division, Plans

LD0804160991 Prague CTK in English 1319 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Bratislava March 8 (CTK)—Leader of the Slovak Public Against Violence movement (VPN) Fedor Gal said today last weekend's decision to divide the movement in an organized way at a congress later this month had eased tensions within the VPN and had a calming effect on society.

The movement virtually split at the beginning of last month after Premier Vladimir Meciar walked out of a crucial VPN meeting over alleged attempts to censor his TV address. He has since founded a breakaway faction known as VPN-For Democratic Slovakia.

According to latest public opinion polls, Meciar's faction is supported by 30 per cent of the Slovak population while Gal's faction by a little over 4 per cent. Nevertheless Gal said he does not intend to resign as chairman of the VPN Slovak Council, the movement's decision-making body. He said the Council has already had an opportunity to recall him and has not done so.

Gal, a sociologist by profession, described the present state of society as "pathological" and said that Slovakia "might be on the way to the restoration of socialism."

VPN won 29.34 per cent of votes in the June 1990 elections to the Slovak parliament but slipped to second place behind the Christian Democrats (KDH) with 20.4 per cent in local elections half a year later.

Union of Communists in Slovakia Explains Goals

AU0804084991 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 3 Apr 91 p 5

[Statement by Jan Zelinka, spokesman of the Union of Communists in Slovakia; place and date not given: "From the Statement by the Union of Communists in Slovakia"]

[Text] Our editorial office received a statement by the Union of Communists in Slovakia, which includes the following:

The Union of Communists in Slovakia [ZKS] is not a legal successor to the Communist Party of Slovakia [KSS]. Already by its name, as well as by its program, it dissociates itself from the deformations in the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPCZ] and the KSS resulting from the practical policies prior to November 1989 and from the opportunism and defeatism following these events. On the other hand, it follows the traditions of the national, democratic, workers', and antifascist movement in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. The goals of the ZKS include the reinforcement of the statehood of the Slovak Republic regarding its history and traditions. At the same time, the ZKS is aware of the necessity of the existence of a common state, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, as a stabilizing factor for democratic freedoms of all its citizens and for the living standard of the workers.

The need for a Marxist communist party in our pluralistic democracy is emphasized by the fact that the present governing body has not learned anything from the errors of the former party and state leadership and by a militant anticommunism hides the dearth of any concept, and often its own incompetence.

The ZKS has offered collaboration to all democratic, and particularly the left-wing parties and movements, in ameliorating our present political life.

Organizational information, application forms, and banking contacts are available at this address: ZKS, 21 Mierova St., 827 28 Bratislava.

Republican Party Elects New Chairman

LD0604182791 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1200 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] (Ivan Duris) was elected chairman of the Republican Party at today's state-wide general assembly in Bratislava. The Republican Party supports implementation of the economic reform, the scenario of which has been approved by the legislature. It appeals to representatives of the political parties to refer in a considerate manner to the situation that has arisen in Slovakia and not to dramatize matters.

Meciar: Slovak State 'Necessity' at Time

AU0804193391

[Editorial Report] Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Slovak on 4 April on pages 1 and 2 carries a 700-word "chk"-signed report entitled "Revival of Relations." The report deals with Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar's meeting with representatives of the "Assembly of Political Parties, Movements, and Associations" held in Bratislava on 3 April. According to the report, Meciar also commented on the World War II Slovak state. In this context he said that the founding of the Slovak state in 1939 "was an optimal solution at that time, born of necessity. Vladimir Meciar added that Slovakia would have otherwise been parceled out among its neighbors and Germany. He also drew attention to the economic prosperity of the Slovak state."

According to the HOSPODARSKE NOVINY report, at an "improvised news conference" held after the Bratislava meeting, Jiri Kotas, a representative of the Assembly of Political Parties, Movements, and Associations, commented on Slovak Prime Minister Meciar's above statements: "Jiri Kotas declared, among other things, that, from the Czech perspective, the period of the Slovak state appears in a different light, without any excusable features. He expressed a certain astonishment at the fact that, to 'historically explain' this state formation, aspects that would justify its existence are being sought even at the governmental level."

Slovak Germans Protest Discrimination

AU0804092291 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 3 Apr 91 p 2

[CTK report: "Again We Are Discriminated Against; Carpathian-German Association in Slovakia on the Land Bill"]

[Text] Bratislava—Yesterday, the Carpathian-German Association in Slovakia asked that CTK publish its stand, from which we selected the following:

On 27 March this year, we learned from the media the reasons why the Slovak Government rejects Article 21 of the Land Ownership Bill. The explanation given in NARODNA OBRODA under the headline, "We Are Not Rehabilitating Fascists," reads that while the principle of collective guilt is not recognized in eliminating its consequences, one cannot at the same time rehabilitate those who were fascists. We are of the opinion that this type of argument actually reconfirms the principle of collective guilt, because the reasons first given by the Slovak National Council for the principle with respect to the German nationality emphasized the fact that a distinction was made between the Carpathian Germans compromised by collaboration with fascists and the majority of Germans living in Slovakia who had nothing to do with fascism. However, it is precisely they and their posterity who are discriminated against by the new bill, and their eventual rehabilitation is illogically and illegally equated with a rehabilitation of fascists. This formulation creates and revives stereotypical views on citizens of German origin, the consequences of which were the wrongs for which the Slovak National Council apologized to dozens of thousands of people.

In this context, the question arises of the legal, ethical, and political weight of an apology, as well as other correlations with the Charter of Human Right and Freedoms.

Slovak Job Losses Expected From Economic Changes

LD0504174891 Prague CTK in English 1638 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Bratislava April 5 (CTK)—Almost 20,000 million crowns [korunas] (1 U.S. dollar - 30 crowns) worth of arms were produced in Slovakia in 1988, but that figure is expected to decline by 90 per cent next year, Slovak Economics Minister Jozef Belcak announced at a press conference today.

Until a new, slower-paced conversion plan was accepted by the Slovak Government on January 13 of this year, said Belcak, it was estimated that 9,500 jobs would have been lost in the arms industry itself, with as many as 65,000 jobs threatened indirectly. Approximately five million people, or one-third of the total Czechoslovak population, live in the Slovak republic.

The new plan allows for the possibility of continuing to export arms, but only to countries where the political situation seems secure, Belcak said.

The Slovak minister criticised many companies for not having developed a substitute manufacturing programme as the process of conversion began in Slovakia in 1988. One possible solution to the problem, according to Belcak, is cooperation with foreign firms - such as Siemens, Volkswagen, Hanomag or Lombardini - which could provide the financial means for development, investment and new manufacturing programmes.

Belcak rejected recent calls for Slovak engineering plants to abandon their business with the Soviet Union, saying that "once the USSR overcomes its internal difficulties, the market will offer good prospects for the future".

IAEA Team Inspects Slovak Nuclear Power Plant

LD0804134291 Prague CTK in English 1032 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Bratislava April 8 (CTK)—An eighteen-member team of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) began their work today at a power station at Jaslovske Bohunice to inspect the safety of the V-1 section of the plant consisting of two Soviet-made power units which have been in operation since 1979. Austria has been demanding an immediate shut-down of the

plant in southwest Slovakia, some 60 kilometres from the Austrian border, saying it is not sufficiently safe.

The IAEA Design and Operation Safety Review Team (DOSART), which is to conduct inspections on the two 440-megawatt units for three weeks, is formed by experts from France, Germany, Britain, USA, Japan, Finland, Spain, Switzerland, IAEA staff and a Soviet observer. The DOSART inspection will be the eighth at Jaslovske Bohunice. The plant produces six million megawatt hours of electric power annually, or 28 per cent of the output in Slovakia.

The Czechoslovak Government has decided on the basis of findings made by local and foreign inspection teams to carry on with the production until 1995 if some 80 adjustments are made to increase safety. If production at the V-1 section were to go on beyond that date, a major modernization would be required.

General manager of the plant Juraj Kmosena told CTK today that for the first time the DOSART team will also study the general design of the power station.

Meciar, Kubecka on Energy Situation in Slovakia

AU0804154791 Prague CTK in English 2035 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Bratislava April 4 (CTK)—Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar denied conducting secret talks with Soviet generals on arms supplies to the Soviet Union during his visit to the USSR on March 13-15.

Refuting rumors about the alleged talks, Meciar told journalists after the Slovak Government's session here it would be senseless to discuss arms exports at a time when all the armies of the former Eastern bloc are reducing their armaments. He added that the Czechoslovak ambassador to the USSR and other diplomatic staffers were present at all talks.

Meciar also told journalists that imports of electric energy, especially from the Soviet Union, will probably be reduced this year. He said it would be illusory to depend on energy supplies from Austria in compensation for a shutdown of the nuclear power plant at Jaslovske Bohunice, West Slovakia, as demanded by Austria for safety reasons.

The Slovak Government should decide about Slovakia's energy program by the end of June 1991, Meciar said. He added it should ensure adequate energy for Slovakia's economy beyond the year 2000.

Slovak Deputy Economics Minister Jaroslav Kubecka said imports of electric energy, especially from the USSR, are unacceptable given the current economic situation in the Slovak Republic.

In his view the best solution to Slovakia's energy problem is to complete the nuclear power plant at Mochovce, West Slovakia, which will require 8,000 million to 13,000 million korunas (30 korunas = 1 dollar).

Kubecka is opposed to the discontinuation of the nuclear power plant at Jaslovske Bohunice, West Slovakia, which generates 28 percent of electric power in Slovakia. Its closure would necessitate energy imports worth 7,000 million to 8,000 million korunas annually.

Recently, foreign expert groups inspected the plant and concluded it can continue operating until 1995 if 80 safety recommendations are carried out. Operation after that year would require overall reconstruction of the plant.

Calfa on Foreign Interference in Internal Affairs

AU0804151891 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 3 Apr 91 p 2

[Interview with CSFR Prime Minister Marian Calfa by Evzen Stanek; place and date not given: "Happenings in Slovakia Closely Watched"]

[Text] Prague—Signals exist of a foreign country interfering in the internal affairs of the CSFR in Slovakia—this resounded from the ranks of the journalists at a recent news conference with Presidential Spokesman M. Zantovsky (RUDE PRAVO 26 March 1990). CSFR Prime Minister Marian Calfa was identified as the author of the statement. I asked the prime minister to tell us what the mentioned signals were.

[Calfa] Following the meeting with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, during a meeting with journalists, I expressed the opinion that the development in Slovakia is not only a Slovak affair, that it might have a much wider reach—and I am still convinced of it. I did not say that signals exist of a foreign country interfering in the internal affairs of the CSFR but that such an idea cannot be excluded. After all, how could it be excluded if the opinions of the Congress of Slovaks in Canada keep appearing in our press, etc. Also, the consul general of the USSR was traveling through Slovakia rather intensively.

Observing these phenomena, I reached the conclusion that happenings in Slovakia are very closely watched abroad, but I did not think of secret services or foreign intelligence acting subversively....

[Stanek] Nevertheless, the foreign services doubtlessly are here, and so far nothing has been undertaken against them?

[Calfa] During World War II, it was said about the neutral Switzerland that maybe all world intelligence services have their agencies there. The Swiss may have followed them and interfered in the cases where their activities overstepped a certain limit. Personally, I would differentiate between two kinds of intelligence services: those who only work here, and those who work against us. In the latter case, the apparatus of the Ministry of the Interior must step in.

Austrian Foreign Minister Mock Continues Visit

Praises Democracy, Market Economy

AU0604185691 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 6 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[Tibor Fenyi and Peter Martos report: "Mock in Budapest: Praise for Democracy and Market Economy"]

[Excerpt] Budapest—By signing an agreement on Friday [5 April] on opening six new border checkpoints, Foreign Ministers Alois Mock and Geza Jeszenszky are sending a signal: It proves that Austria and Hungary are strengthening their "special and excellent good-neighborly relations" (Mock). After the talks, which marked the beginning of a two-day visit to Budapest, in a news conference Mock greatly praised Hungary's transition to democracy and the market economy.

Mock also said that he was glad to learn that the Hungarian Government would make a decision in principle on the joint world fair. Besides, Mock said, relations between the two countries are characterized by an "excellent dynamism," which is not only reflected in official visits but also in concrete successes. [passage omitted]

Concludes Talks With Jeszenszky

LD0504152191 Budapest MTI in English 1342 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Budapest, April 5 (MTI)—Following the talks between Austrian Foreign Minister Dr Alois Mock and Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky, the sides signed an agreement on opening new border stations along the common border of the two countries. Under the agreement, new border stations will open between Fertod and Pamhagen and between Pinkamindszent and Moschendorf for international road traffic.

The border stations between Mosonszentjanos and Andau and between Fertorakos and Morbisch will be open for pedestrians and cyclists only.

The border between Bozsok and Reichnitz and between Szentpeterfa and Eberau will only be open for Hungarian and Austrian citizens.

Under the agreement, the citizens of the two countries will be free to climb the look-out tower at Irottko, a peak situated just on the border. The dates of the border station openings and the way they will be run will be co-ordinated by the Hungarian and Austrian authorities.

Mock, Jeszenszky Satisfied With Visit

AU0804074891 Vienna KURIER in German 7 Apr 91 p 3

[C. Berenyi report: "Hungarians Satisfied With Mock Visit]

[Excerpt] During his visit to Budapest, [Austrian] Foreign Minister Mock noted with emphasis: "I consider it to be completely wrong to speak of the dangers of an alleged security vacuum in the former member states of the Warsaw Pact." There is only a transition period until these countries find their place in the new European security system. "It is impossible for them to be exposed to even greater dangers than during the time of dictatorship and the divided Europe."

Mock, as well as his hosts, were highly satisfied with his first official visit to free Hungary. Mock's counterpart Jeszenszky spoke of a "qualitatively new stage" in the relationship of neighbors that now share the same social system—although at different levels of development. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Kupa Cited on EC Negotiations

LD0804151791 Budapest MTI in English 1254 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Budapest, April 8, 1991 (MTI-Econews)—The British Government endorses Hungary's standpoint in talks it is having with the European Community aimed at an association agreement, especially as regards the market access of Hungarian agricultural products, and the British banking sector is considering lending a hand with payment problems the country is experiencing in Eastern European trade, Hungarian Finance Minister Mihaly Kupa told MTI's London correspondent at the conclusion of his visit to the British capital over the weekend.

Amongst those who expressed an interest in assisting Hungary with payment problems—especially in Hungarian-Soviet trade—by creating funds or coming up with new sources of financial assistance were the new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Barclays Group, Mr Kupa said.

Sir Robert Wade-Gery, executive director of Barclays De Zoete Wedd, the investment arm of Barclays, also told MTI he hoped that his company's participation in the privatization process and corporate restructuring projects in Hungary would lead to other banking opportunities here, including the more transactional side of investment banking, and, in due course, some commercial banking as well.

"We will create an export guarantee system with British and German assistance, and will also open a small-scale Hungarian Reconstruction Bank, in order to ease the reorganization process of Hungarian-Eastern European trade," Mr Kupa said.

Mr Kupa told the Confederation of British Industries (CBI) that the privatization process in Hungary would accelerate, and added that the Hungarian government was not considering an overall limitation of western share ownership in strategic industries.

However, foreign partners in such companies would have equal obligations towards the Hungarian market as domestic partners, the minister said.

Mr Kupa also said that for the time being, foreign investors cannot buy stakes in the three largest Hungarian commercial banks, because their portfolios are so bad that their shares would necessarily be underpriced.

Other banks were free to sell their shares to Western investors, though, he said, emphasizing that there was no obstacle in the way of western, including British, banks starting up fully-fledged banking operations in Hungary in competition with their Hungarian counterparts.

Slovak Deputy Prime Minister Discusses Visit

AU0804154691 Prague CTK in English 1935 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Budapest April 4 (CTK)—Slovak Deputy Premier Jan Carnogursky told CTK today that the main objective of his two-day visit to Hungary is to create conditions that will enable the 200,000 Slovaks living in Hungary to preserve their language, culture and customs.

Carnogursky spoke with president of the Union of Slovaks in Hungary Maria Jakabova about the problems of the Slovak minority in Hungary and the possibility of support from Slovakia to help this minority maintain its identity.

Also today Carnogursky met with Hungarian Ministers Balazs Horvath and Laszlo Surjan to discuss cooperation between the Hungarian Democratic Forum and the Christian Democratic People's Party from Hungary, and the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH) from Slovakia, headed by Carnogursky.

Need for New Trade Talks With Bulgaria Noted

LD0804154591 Budapest MTI in English 1028 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Budapest, April 8, 1991 (MTI-Econews)—No agreement could be reached at the round of talks Hungarian and Bulgarian trade experts held last week about the switch-over to dollar accounting in bilateral trade, or the way of settling rouble debts previously run-up.

A new session of discussions will therefore have to be held.

Two-way trade between Hungary and Bulgaria was worth 130 million rbls last year.

Though Hungary accumulated a 50-million-rbl deficit in trade with Bulgaria in 1990, it ran up a surplus of 75 million rbls in the balance of payments between the two countries.

So far, the sides have agreed that Bulgarian companies will be allowed to continue to export goods to Hungary for roubles until October 30.

The sticking points are the dollar-to-rouble rate to be used for settling Hungary's surplus—part of which is unlikely to be repaid by October 30—and the ways Bulgaria might offset this amount.

Until these matters have been cleared up, no agreement can be reached on the dollarization of trade between the two countries.

Despite the absence of an agreement, Hungarian and Bulgarian companies have been conducting trade in dollars since January 1, but turnover has dropped to a fraction of last year's trade figure.

Agreement on Evacuated USSR Barracks Signed

LD0804161391 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1300 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] The agreement on the utilization of the Soviet barracks in Hungary has been signed. The head of the press department of the Ministry of Defence announced that with the assistance of the two documents, it will be possible to prepare a balance of accounts which takes the interests of both sides into consideration. In one of the agreements, the manner of the handover of the buildings is laid down; the other agreement contains methodological issues related to the assessment of environmental damage. For the purpose of a more rapid implementation, a Hungarian-Soviet mixed committee will be set up in the future.

President Goncz Leaves on Visit to India

LD0904101891 Budapest MTI in English 0800 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Budapest, April 9 (MTI)—Arpad Goncz, president of the Republic of Hungary, left for an official visit to India on Tuesday, April 9. Goncz is meeting an invitation from Ramaswamy Venkataraman, president of the Republic of India.

Goncz is accompanied by Minister of Culture and Education Bertalan Andrasfalvy, and Ferenc Madl, minister without portfolio.

According to plans, Goncz is to hold talks with his host, and with Vice-President Shankar Sharma, and senior politicians of the Congress Party, the Janata Party, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The president is to receive an honory doctorate title from the Delhi University, and is scheduled to deliver a paper in the Society of Indian Diplomats.

Reportage on Jeszenszky's Visit to UK

WA0804195791

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky to the United Kingdom, including a report denying rumors about his resignation, and on his lecture at the British association of Slavic, Soviet and East

European Studies, please see the United Kingdom section of the 8 April West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Proposal for 6-Party Talks Prompts More Reactions

MDF Group Supports FIDESZ

LD0804174191 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1400 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The parliamentary groups of both the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] and the Independent Smallholders' Party [FKgP] met before today's parliament session. Gabor Kereszti reports:

[Kereszti] The MDF group of parliamentary deputies accepted the Federation of Young Democrats [FIDESZ] proposal for six-party talks and, supporting yesterday's decision of the MDF National Board, urges the convening of interparty talks as soon as possible. As I learned from some deputies at the end of the session, the voting was unequivocal; however, the MDF parliamentary group considers it obvious that the talks cannot intercede with the legislative work or the responsibility of either the National Assembly or the government. Agreement in social issues and interest representation is considered by the group to be of special importance. It also urges the easing of the present tension between the parties. [passage omitted]

SZDSZ Sends Letter to FIDESZ

LD0804201191 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] The Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ] shares the worry of the Federation of Young Democrats [FIDESZ] about the future of Hungarian democracy, but the proposal by FIDESZ for the six-party talks is unclear to the SZDSZ in several points. The SZDSZ has therefore sent an open letter to the National Board and parliamentary faction of the FIDESZ, so it gives an answer to the proposal once the questions are clarified. It is not clear who would make agreements with whom after the talks for the SZDSZ, or who would have the responsibility. The SZDSZ would object if ideas alone were discussed at the six-party talks. It does not support excluding the press. The SZDSZ is also expecting an answer from FIDESZ on the question of whether it would promote the stabilization of the country if the parliamentary opposition openly accepted self-restriction.

National Assembly Speaker on Compensation Law

LD0504155891 Budapest MTI in English 1400 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Budapest, April 5 (MTI)—Parliament has every chance of enacting the compensation law by the time two weeks are out, speaker Gyorgy Szabad told the press on Friday. In its next session to start on Monday, parliament is expected to close the major part of the detailed debate over the bill. After that, all that remains to be done is for the parliamentary committees to move on a number of issues related to proposed amendments.

Szabad said that the last touches were just being put to the final draft of the house rules. Comments on the draft will be made by the immunity committee, by all parliamentary groups and, in the context of a public debate next week, by us experts. In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, the speaker asked the government to inform parliament of its position by mid-April so the house rules can be put forward to parliament in a few weeks. As the house rules have to be approved by a two-thirds majority, the parties need to hold preliminary consultations, Szabad said.

Although parliament will have to hold a special session in any case, the plan is for legislation to be suspended from July 10 to August 15, Szabad said.

The speaker welcomed the proposal of the Federation of Young Democrats for six-party coordination talks, which he said could give a boost to legislation.

Maxwell Acquires Majority Share in Newspaper

LD0804161891 Budapest MTI in English 1022 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Budapest, April 8, 1991 (MTI-ECONEWS)—MAGYAR HIRLAP Publishing PLC has approved a takeover by the Robert Maxwell's MIRROR Group, whose stake in the company will increase from 40 per cent to 50 per cent plus one share.

The PLC was set up in February 1990 with capital of 125 million forints (1.9 million USD) [U.S. dollars]. Robert Maxwell took 40 per cent of the shares, the Pallas Publishing House 15 per cent, the MAGYAR HIRLAP Foundation, representing the journalists on the paper, 5 per cent, and the remaining 40 per cent was shared equally by the Hungarian Commercial and Credit Bank, the Hungarian Savings Bank, and the Foreign Trade Bank.

MAGYAR HIRLAP Publishing PLC publishes the daily MAGYAR HIRLAP, which has a circulation of about 80,000, as well as a number of other publications.

Robert Maxwell has built his own 100-per-cent owned colour printing house in Budapest which publishes both the MAGYAR HIRLAP and the ESTI HIRLAP, a separate evening paper which is also 40 per cent Maxwell-owned.

The MIRROR Group will invest another 40 million forints in MAGYAR HIRLAP Publishing PLC in order to acquire its controlling stake, while the other partners, stakes will decrease accordingly: Pallas will hold 11.3 per cent, the MAGYAR HIRLAP Foundation 3.7 per cent, and the three commercial banks together, 35 per cent.

Banking Federation Joins European Community

LD0804163991 Budapest MTI in English 1404 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Budapest, April 8 (MTI)—The Hungarian Banking Federation has just become an associated corresponding member of the Banking Federation of the European Community, the Hungarian Banking Federation announced here today.

Cooperation with the EC Banking Federation, an organization which rallies the banking associations of the 12 EC members, will give Hungarian commercial banks the benefit of access to information on European financial and economic processes, and help speed up the modernization of domestic banks.

Nationwide Consumer Price Increase Noted

AU0704145991 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 3 Apr 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Price Trends in Hungary from February to February: The Most Expensive Item is Energy"]

[Text] The summary of February 1991 price trends has just been completed by the Central Statistical Office. The price of meat has even decreased since February 1990, while the prices of fuel and domestic energy went up the most.

On the average, consumer prices were 32.6 percent higher in Hungary in February 1991 than a year earlier. It is remarkable that food products showed the smallest price increase within the major expenditure groups, which has not happened since 1986 (this group had the greatest increase in 1990). The prices of meat products actually decreased compared with last year's prices.

The price index for the other major groups of products is around the average; the groups of heating, domestic energy and of other manufactured goods show the greatest increase, the first one reflecting multiple price increases.

As a result of previous price increases, the price index remains high—way above average—for flour (152 percent), bread (155 percent), bakery products (148 percent), sugar (178 percent), citrus fruits (172 percent), tea (266 percent), hard liquor (140 percent), heating fuels (158 percent), gas, district heating (143 percent), water charge (210 percent), cars (167 percent), gasoline (185 percent), teaching materials, stationery (156 percent), and building materials (142 percent).

The consumer price index rose by 4.4 percent in February 1991 compared with January this year, which is considerably lower than the price rise (7.5 percent) in January, but even then it was double the amount of last year's monthly average, although in recent years we grew accustomed to a faster increase in the first few months of the year.

The most important price increases introduced from February are: passenger transport by rail: 80 percent; long distance coach journeys: 55 percent; some funeral costs: 100 percent; telephones: 150 percent; detergents and cleaning materials: 30 percent.

Within individual consumer groups, the price index of the low income group and pensioners is lower than the average—resulting mainly from the relatively lower index of foodstuffs.

Inflation Figures Given; Price Increases Expected

LD0704221991 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 1700 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] It is likely that in our world of liberated prices the prices of certain products will be raised again tomorrow. According to the summary by the Statistical Office in February of this year, the retail prices were 32.6 percent higher in Hungary than a year before. The most significant price increases were: train fares 80 percent; telephone 150 percent; chemical products 30 percent; and I can say it is not even worth dying any more, as the price of funeral services has gone up by 100 percent.

Although it is difficult to suit it to a market economy, the state subsidy of certain products cannot be cancelled. Nowadays the government has to compensate for the price rises by ways of social politics, as it did when it announced this week the issuing of milk tokens, which affects 180,000 people who receive social welfare assistance. Inflation can, and has to be, compensated for if we do not want more and more social strata to get cut off.

Dubinin Holds News Conference on Troop Withdrawal

LD0904021991 Warsaw PAP in English 2039 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Koszalin, April 8 (PAP)—10,000 Soviet soldiers, that is, about 30 military units, including a missile unit, some aircraft, communication and engineering units as well as single tank and artillery units, will leave Poland by the end of 1991, the commander of Soviet troops in Poland, General Viktor Dubinin, told a press conference held in the Soviet garrison of Borne-Sulinowo (the Koszalin Voivodship, north-west Poland) today.

The missile unit will start its withdrawal from the Borne-Sulinowo garrison tomorrow, he said.

General Dubinin said the Soviet side would hand over to the Polish side 7 Soviet garrisons situated in Poland and added that the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Poland was to be completed by the end of 1993. In 1994 some 2,000 Soviet soldiers will remain in Poland to secure the transit of Soviet troops from Germany which is to be completed in 1994.

"The beginning of the withdrawal of the missile unit from the Borne-Sulinowo garrison starts a process of a complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from Poland," Dubinin said.

"Even if the Polish Government did not ask us to withdraw our troops we would start a planned withdrawal this spring, as we are of the opinion that Soviet troops should not be stationed in foreign states," he added.

General Dubinin said the beginning of the withdrawal was agreed with the Polish Government.

But General Zdzislaw Ostrowski, a Polish Government plenipotentiary for the stationing of Soviet troops in Poland, who also attended the conference, said it was a one-sided action as the Polish side did not receive a time-table of the withdrawal in 1991. "But we receive the beginning of the withdrawal with satisfaction," he said.

General Dubinin said a faster withdrawal of Soviet troops was unrealistic due to material and technical reserves they have in Poland. He also stressed there were about 200,000 military families in the USSR without apartments. A faster withdrawal from Poland would increase their number and we expect the issue will be settled till the end of 1993, added he. [sentence as received]

General Ostrowski did not agree with these statements. He recalled the Polish side was ready to keep a definite number of such families till the problem was solved and added that Polish construction enterprises operating in the USSR were ready to provide construction services.

As far as reserves were concerned, General Ostrowski stressed the Polish side could supply a necessary number of trains.

Asked on the future of units that would leave Poland, General Dubinin said the missile unit would be dissolved by the end of June on the territory of the Soviet Union. Some units will be dissolved and some will be sent to various military districts, he added.

General Dubinin stated there were no Soviet chemical weapons in Poland. In April the Polish side will control two Soviet garrisons to confirm the fact. Nuclear weapons were taken to the Soviet Union in the first half of 1990, he said.

Confirms Nuclear Weapons Withdrawn

LD0904075291 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0600 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] An important matter at the center of attention in today's papers is the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Poland. The papers carry reports on a news conference by General Viktor Dubinin, commander of the Soviet Forces Northern Group.

To the question from RZECZPOSPOLITA on whether he can unambiguously and authoritatively contradict that chemical and nuclear weapons are now or have in the past been located on Polish territory, the Soviet general replied: I firmly state that there are not and have not been chemical weapons in Poland. In accordance with Poland's wishes, in April there will be an unannounced inspection of (?two) Soviet units. We can make more of our units available for inspections. As to nuclear weapons, as there were missile units then there were also nuclear weapons. All of the nuclear weapons were transported out of Poland in the first half of 1990. This is, stresses RZECZPOSPOLITA, the first public Soivet statement confirming the existence in the past of nuclear weapons on Polish territory, in bunkers near Pniewo, which is only a few kilometers from Borne-Sulinowo where ceremonies associated with the withdrawal of a Soviet missile unit will take place today. The title of the article is: There Were Nuclear Weapons in Our Country.

'Essential Progress' Attained in Talks With FRG

LD0604200691 Warsaw PAP in English 1538 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Warsaw, April 6—Ethnic minority issues, Poland's relations with the European Communities and regional cooperation were the main topics discussed during the fifth round of Polish-German negotiations concerning the treaty on good neighbourly relations and cooperation conducted here on April 4-6. A communique issued by the Polish Foreign Ministry today stressed that the sides attained essential progress in many crucial issues. In the opinion of the Director of the Foreign Ministry's European Department Jerzy Sulek, who headed the Polish delegation, the negotiations have entered the final stage. "The next round of talks will

begin in Bonn on April 22. We would like the treaty on good neighbourly relations to be submitted together with the border treaty for ratification by the Sejm and Bundestag still before the summer recess," he said. The treaty is to be a universal document covering all domains of cooperation. "We are trying to include in it lasting solutions which could be effective in the next 20 years," Sulek said.

Officials Preview Walesa's Visit to France

LD0804170991 Warsaw PAP in English 1429 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Warsaw, Paris, April 8—"The major goal of President Walesa's visit to France is the signing of a treaty on friendship and solidarity," Secretary of State Janusz Ziolkowski said today on the eve of Lech Walesa's departure for Paris.

"Poland will sign such a document with a West European country for the first time, and France - for the first time with a post-communist state. This will set a precedent that may be followed," Ziolkowski opined. He underlined that the term "solidarity" included in the name of the treaty appears for the first time in the international diplomatic vocabulary meaning that both countries are at one as concerns the major objective of Poland, that is her admission to European institutions. It also signifies that "France is probably the most important political partner of Poland in the West," said secretary of state in the Presidential Office.

"Another significant feature of the treaty is its role in building our security in Europe and the world," he continued. "The treaty, for instance, provides for political consultations in face of threats which is a rare thing in France's relations with other countries."

"We want to be active in the changing Europe. The president's travels are to give a new political impulse to that. We hope that this important visit will bring about very significant changes in Polish-French relations," spokesman for the president Andrzej Drzycimski said.

Both Ziolkowski and Drzycimski pointed out that Polish-French economic cooperation does not match the perfect political contacts and hoped that the present visit may bring about a breakthrough in this regard, especially following President Mitterrand's declaration to reduce the Polish debt by extra 2-3 billion French francs in addition to the 50-percent reduction promised by the Paris Club.

Meanwhile, it was announced in Paris that President Mitterrand is to present Lech Walesa with an 18th-century pipe worth 6,000 dollars as a symbol of peace between both nations granted to the Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Walesa's Meeting With Economists Discussed

LD0504190491 Warsaw PAP in English 1711 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Warsaw, April 5—The expected presidential meeting with economists in the Belweder Palace and the planned visit of President Walesa to France were discussed by the president and his advisory committee here today.

The meeting with economists is organized by the advisory committee and planned for the end of April after the president's visit to Britain. Some 40 economists representing the government and various political groups are expected to take part.

President Walesa's spokesman Andrzej Drzycimski said that the president had accepted the committee's initiative to hear various opinions and see what these sometimes contradictory economic views may have in common. The president seeks an answer to the question whether the complexity of Poland's economic situation necessitates any changes of fundamental character or maybe it evolves in the right direction.

The meeting is not a vote of no confidence for the government, the spokesman stressed explaining that its aim is to find a plane for a free exchange of ideas. It is also to help the government in its search for new solutions.

Sejm Adopts TU Laws, Amends Constitution

LD0504221991 Warsaw PAP in English 2051 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Warsaw, April 5—The Sejm (lower house) today adopted the laws on trade unions, on collective disputes and on employers organizations ruling that only trade unions have the right to enter into collective disputes, allowing for strikes in the transport sector and for solidarity strikes, and providing the possibility for a limited lockout in defence against a wildcat strike. The laws also give farmers the right to launch protest actions.

The Sejm made some amendments to the constitution relating to parliamentary elections. The changes condition the right to be elected on at least a five-year-period of residence in Poland and eliminate the break between the terms of the old and newly elected parliaments. The Sejm also decided that the president should rule the nearest parliamentary elections for the end of October at the latest.

The Sejm resolved to submit the bill on ratification of the treaty on trade and economic relations between Poland and the United States to Sejm committees for further consideration.

Without discussion the Sejm sent the deputies bill on parenthood and protection of the unborn child, which

allows for abortion in justified cases, to the extraordinary committee that is considering the Senate anti-abortion bill. Presenting the deputies bill, Anna Kwietniewska underlined that the draft is in tune with international resolutions saying that women should be given the right to decide about their own life and maternity. The bill also obliges the state to provide information on and means for family planning.

Briefing the Sejm on the purchase of land by foreigners, an Agriculture Ministry official stated that the sales rules will not be eased.

Agriculture Minister Adam Tanski told deputies that guaranteed minimum procurement prices, presently negotiated with rural trade union organizations, would have to be higher than the market ones and opined that intervention procurement by the rural market agency and the restructuring of agriculture would provide more efficient methods for saving this sector.

Referring to the recent blockade of roads by farmers Tanski pointed to the necessity of respecting the law by all, farmers including, and told deputies to decide whether MPs should take part in such illegal actions.

Also today the Sejm and Senate adopted a joint resolution condemning the genocide in Iraq.

At its separate meeting today the Senate resolved to undertake a legislative initiative on medical care institutions and adopted a resolution referring to the legislatiion on local self-government.

Bielecki, Solidarity Leader Discuss Reforms

LD0504221791 Warsaw PAP in English 2025 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Warsaw, April 5—Premier Jan Krzysztof Bielecki received here today chairman of Solidarity Marian Krzaklewski.

The prime minister and Solidarity leader assessed that current state of negotiations between the government and the union, discussed the excess-wage tax and its impact on the economy and preparations for signing an agreement between the two sides on privatization of the Polish economy.

Their talk also covered unemployment and the bankruptcy of Polish enterprises which heavily relied on exports to the Soviet Union.

The Solidarity chairman presented the scope of union claims concerning the current legislation and execution of the reform, negative aspects of state administrations operation and enterprises management.

Government Spokesman Andrzej Zarebski told journalists after the meeting that it could be considered as one opening up new prospects for negotiations between the government and Solidarity.

More Details on Talks Reported

LD0504220391 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 2059 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki spoke for almost three hours with the leader of Independent Self-Governing Trade Union Solidarity, Marian Krzaklewski, in the Council of Ministers office. The present political situation in Poland—and against this background the state of negotiations between Solidarity and the government— were the main subjects of the talks.

[Begin Krzaklewski recording] We spoke, among other things, about the popiwek [tax on above-average wage increases]. Here Solidarity suggested that one should move away from the popiwek formula in instances where the state enterprise is achieving real efficiency in management. We spoke about unemployment, especially in those regions where there is a threat of structural unemployment, that is, about 60 small and medium-sized towns in Poland. We spoke about specific problems, linked to the collapse of enterprises, for example those involved in export to the Soviet Union, and enterprises in the armament industry. We also spoke about future negotiations. On 16 April there is to be a meeting of national commission [of Solidarity]; it will elaborate a stand for talks with the government. One can expect that such talks will take place by the end of April.

A specific issue was the talk about the conflict in the Orbis enterprise, and a chance of resolving this matter appeared. [end recording]

OPZZ Protests Government's Social Policies

LD0504212791 Warsaw PAP in English 1936 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Poznan-Szczecin, April 5—Unionists from the All-Poland Trade Union Alliance (OPZZ) demanded that the government clearly define the state social policy, arrest growing recession, unemployment, high prices and the fall in real wages, during rallies staged both in Poznan and Szczecin today.

Both rallies were part of a protest action organized by the OPZZ against the government economic policy this spring.

In Poznan, the demonstrators said the government current policy led to posing a threat to the existence of state factories, the decline of small business and to the degradation of natural environment. Several hundred trade unionists from six voivodships adopted a petition to protest against the present economic policy, addressing it to the president, the prime minister, the Sejm speaker and to the six voivodes of the regions.

Our protests are an answer to the absence of government response towards trade union postulates. The government cannot delay making decisions that will permit the reform of the economy in a way enabling working families to live in a decent and human conditions,

participant in the Szczecin rally OPZZ Chairman Alfred Miodowicz told PAP journalist.

By protesting, we want to turn the government back from the wrong road, Miodowicz said.

Bielecki Holds Talks With Protesting Farmers

LD0504180491 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1605 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Report by unidentified reporter on statements made by Prime Minister Bielecki and President Lech Walesa to farmers protesting in Warsaw on 5 April—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] A protest march by farmers crossed through Warsaw today. Here is our correspondent:

[Reporter] A several hundred-strong group of farmers from Farmers' Solidarity today handed in a petition protesting against the agricultural policy of the government to the speakers of the Sejm and Senate, and also to Prime Minister Bielecki. The prime minister held talks with the farmers when he accepted the petition.

[Bielecki] We are quite simply, sincerely speaking, presenting the truth about the economic situation as we see it. And of course...[indistinct interruption] we can discuss it. [loud and violent interruption] But who is interrupting? Who is interrupting? [commotion, Bielecki and unidentified speaker talking over each other] Ladies and gentlemen, it is quite certain that it is not possible to carry on a discussion in this place and in such a way. You have your organization for this, for us to sit down, and in the framework of the possibilities—especially after the clarification of the situation, if it is a matter of the external market—carry out an additional evaluation of the situation. This is all I can do for you.

You say minimum price as a price that, in association with the situation extant in Poland, is not to be a guarantee of profitability for all, but merely a guarantee for the better enterprises—that is, those above the average, right? In the next sentence you say that the minimum price is to shield the weakest farmers and the poorest farms. This is, this is quite simply [words indistinct] an impossible mixup, gentlemen.

[Unidentified speaker] I have this proposal, for you to come to us, to our farms, for a week's time, and to work. We will see then how you will evaluate the situation of agriculture. [shouting, indistinct voices]

[Bielecki] [Words indistinct] that man who asked that question about [word indistinct] was mistaken, rather. [singing, by farmers, of the "Rota"—patriotic hymn]

[Reporter] Next the farmers went to the Belweder Palace.

[Unidentified speaker] Mr. President, we want to talk! As a Pole with a Pole! [chanting heard]

[Reporter] President Lech Walesa invited a five-person delegation of the protestors in to see him, and one of them thus reported the talk with the president:

[Unidentified farmer] The president states that he is with us. He states that he will try with all the might and time he has to help the activities of the union in these struggles that we are waging with the government. The president, well, suggested here that he did not even know about certain things. [sneering laughter]

[Unidentified speaker] I am very sorry, we are not [words indistinct] talks between the union and the government. Calmly. After all, Mr. President Walesa will not deal with all your problems for you here, in this gateway. [indistinct cry]

[Reporter] The demonstrators dispersed peacefully, announcing that they would collect a million signatures against the policy of the government.

[Announcer] I will just add—which we did not hear in the report—that Prime Minister Bielecki, on being asked by the farmers whether the countryside can expect changes in agricultural policy, replied that his talks in Moscow yesterday took place among other reasons to seek a market for the sale of Polish agricultural products.

Union Chairman Comments

LD0504212291 Warsaw PAP in English 1929 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Warsaw, April 5—A demonstration staged in Warsaw by a several hundred strong group of the Solidarity of Private Farmers today took the form of a March along the main thoroughfares. The protesters made stops to deliver letters to the president and speakers of the Sejm and Senate in their respective seats.

President Walesa received a five-strong delegation of the protesting farmers.

Also the speakers of both houses of Parliament spoke to the demonstrators, as did the prime minister in front of the government building.

Recapitulating the content of the letters handed to the highest state authorities, chairman of the Union, Gabriel Janowski said that the agricultural policy now in force must be changed since it puts in jeopardy not only the well-being of farmers, but also the security of the state.

Were this policy to be continued, not only farmers but the whole country would go bankrupt, said Janowski. We will not let this happen, the Union is determined to bring about a change in this policy, he added.

PSL Seeks Agreement With Farmer Organizations

LD0604213791 Warsaw PAP in English 1829 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Warsaw, April 6—At its meeting here today, the main council of the PSL [Polish Peasant Party]-Solidarity Peasant Party came out for seeking agreement with other organizations representing the farmers and sharing the ideals of Solidarity, in particular the Rural Solidarity headed by Gabriel Janowski and the PSL headed by Henrk Bak. Such an agreement should make it possible to work out a joint electoral platform. The council passed a resolution calling on the Sejm to speed up work on the election regulations, so that the respective law be ready still this month. Any delay could jeopardize the setting up of a political infrastructure in Poland indispensable for holding democratic parliamentary elections, the resolution reads.

Bielecki Calls on Journalists To Support Reforms

LD0504195191 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1605 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] We wish to draw your attention to one more meeting today; the one between Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki and the leadership of the Association of Polish Journalists. The prime minister said that it is necessary to create a journalistic lobby supporting the reform in our country.

[Begin recording] [Bielecki] The essence of the functioning of this lobby is activity for the sake of democracy, the market economy. Although in Poland we have 150 or perhaps 200 parties, there is no political force that would be against this (?formulation). On the other hand, if one goes a sentence further or, pray God not, a [word indistinct] further, then it transpires that, by all means, [word indistinct] is for the market economy, but a [word indistinct] implements it differently. This has been accepted not only in the textbooks, but also, altogether, in the real functioning of the economy.

[Reporter] This is very difficult to imagine for oneself, but it is also a historical necessity. That means, I think, that indeed we now have a certain opportunity—we, that means the country, the whole of our state—to overcome various things. But the government itself will probably not do this, [words indistinct] without the help of journalists, [words indistinct] without the help of people who explain to society, who seek to discharge tensions, then this will probably not be achieved. However, this is but one side of the coin. The other equally important one is a certain control function over the authorities, over the government. Here again there are perhaps excessive (?things demanded) of our media. It is probably also the case that in a democratic state the free press and journalists constitute this control force, on the one hand clarifying the principles of the reforms they agree with—in accordance with their own conscience, of course—but on the other hand fulfilling control functions, [words indistinct]. This is probably the point. [end recording]

Majewski on KGB, Police Trade Union Strike

AU0804132191 Warsaw PAP in English 1832 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Warsaw, April 4—The Soviet KGB ended its legal activity in Poland last month and the KGB resident here, General Smirnov, returned to his diplomatic status, Minister of Internal Affairs Henryk Majewski told a press conference here today.

The minister denied press reports on a recent purchase by Poland of 15 American helicopters and said that only four western-made high-class helicopters had been bought. Two of them will be at the pope's disposal during his pilgrimage in Poland the coming June and the remaining two will be used for monitoring the evacuation of Soviet troops from Poland.

Majewski criticized the decision by the policemen's trade union to stage a protest action and stressed that police had no right to go on strike, while attempts to exert pressure over wages linked with the forthcoming visit to Poland by the pope were detrimental to both the trade union and the police.

According to Majewski, it is not possible at present to separate the Office for the Protection of the State from the Interior Ministry due to technical and financial reasons. Such a step had been announced earlier by Prime Minister Bielecki.

Branch of European Federalist Party Founded

LD0504211191 Warsaw PAP in English 1921 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Warsaw, April 5—The provincial court in Warsaw today registered the Polish section of the European Federalist Party. Leader of the party is Leon Bukowiecki of Warsaw, a journalist, and his deputy is a businessman from Lodz Roman Lukaszewicz.

The party's objectives include the elimination of borders in Europe, introduction of the European citizenship, common currency, making Poland an integral component of the united Europe, and saving the natural environment of man which is in particular danger in the eastern part of the continent. The federalist party also opts for the consolidation of market economy in Poland combined with a limited state interventionism.

Power Struggle in National Salvation Front Viewed

AU0804175391 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 3 Apr 91 p 1

[Tia Serbanescu article: "The Great Struggle"]

[Text] So far, those currently in power have been able to manage somehow. They have only had to struggle against the opposition, which, let us face it, hardly gave them any trouble. A few incidents a year, which—out of fear—our honorable leadership amplified and made sound like a state coup. The street, the students, the workers, and the intellectuals were accused on this occasion of aspiring to take power, as if they themselves did not want the same thing. While in the case of Messrs. Iliescu, Roman, Barladeanu or Martian the desire for power seemed natural, when it came to the opposition it seemed to be simple impudence; however, the picture is rather changed now. Having gotten to the end of the rope and with a "collapse" on their threshold, the three branches of our leadership were rather panic stricken. In an attempt to save themselves, they started to put the blame on each other, to accuse each other, to separate and unite once again, and to split and regroup with the sacred desire to "save their skins." Witnessing the struggle of those in power against any opposition for more than one year, we now have the opportunity to watch the second part of the super show in which the struggle for power has shifted even within the National Salvation Front [FSN]. After succeeding in dividing the country and instigating feuds by all possible means, they now have to cope with their own virus so easily launched at one point in the hope to deal a blow only to others.

The one whom the "consensus" of those in power seems decided to sacrifice is Mr. Roman. The funny thing (so to speak) would be if suddenly we realized that Messrs. I.V. Sandulescu, Martian, or Campeanu could be Mr. Roman's replacement. Furthermore, what is annoying is the fact that not even Jesus Christ, whose resurrection we are awaiting, would, at this point, be able to pull us out of the disaster into which we walked smiling just over a year ago.

Fratia TU Leader on Association With FSN

AU0804201691 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 3 Apr p 2

[Interview with Miron Mitrea, leader of Fratia Trade Union Confederation, by Sorin Rosca-Stanescu; place and date not given: "Has Fratia Been Confiscated by the National Salvation Front?"]

[Text] [Stanescu] At a certain political conjuncture, it is only natural for one trade union central or another to get close to the party that offers greater prospects. Is this the situation of "Fratia" trade union today? Mr. Mitrea, I am asking you this question because—I hope it is not a secret to you—that numerous voices can be heard saying that you have concluded a pact with the National Salvation Front [FSN] and the government.

[Mitrea] True, generally speaking, a political formation may get close and cooperate with a trade union. Such a thing happens only when the political formation and trade unions are properly structured. In Romania—at least at this point—one cannot talk of such a problem. This is even more so in the case of the FSN. The FSN's social democracy is just an expression used at its Convention. The FSN is far from being a social democratic party; the FSN is not even a party. There is an obvious contradiction: The FSN terms itself as social democratic but it proposes an economic reform that has nothing in common with social democracy.

[Stanescu] You have been accused of becoming a FSN-ist especially in the wake of the national convention and maybe the explanation is that you attended it.

[Mitrea] Many trade unions were present at the convention as observers. I do not see what is wrong in this. There were others, however—not from "Fratia" trade union, you should note—attending as delegates. We were hoping to learn what was going to happen to Romania from now on. Now we know that we cannot expect anything positive from this political formation. For us it was very important to realize that democracy did not function, and that everything was imposed from the rostrum.

[Stanescu] I think that at this time trade unions are better structured than parties; however, this also means a possible dictatorship of trade unions.

[Mitrea] This is true. Neither the other parties nor the FSN represents a viable structure. The FSN's ideology—to give one example—is the ideology of power; those who want to have access to power have joined the FSN. On the other hand, a shortfall of the trade unions is the fact that they still have a mass ideology. We will not turn to a dictatorship of the trade unions, because they, too, are divided according to objective, but also subjective criteria, in accordance with their prestige. I myself see another danger: The consequence of the nonexistence of political formations is that political issues put great pressure on the trade unions. There are large trade union that affirm that they need a social-democratic movement. Mr. Cunescu's party—in its current structure—is a political formation either. This position being vacant, our trade union members are putting more and more pressure on the leadership of "Fratia" trade union to fill this political gap. What are the basic problems the trade union central is dealing with? We should not take refuge behind a pretext. All trade union centrals question the economic reform, but this is actually a political issue. It is not by accident that the press and the public in general pursue the development of trade unions more and more from a political and not a trade union angle. As I have always said, there is the danger that the trade unions will make their appearance in the political arena of political forces do not structure themselves.

[Stanescu] If this happens, will there not be the risk of turning to the left, of accentuating populism, and of dramatically slowing down the reform?

[Mitrea] Yes, there is such a risk. I do not know to what extent the other trade union centrals are trying to avert such prospects, which would delay our transition to a market economy.

[Stanescu] Is this why you accused "ALFA" trade union at the news conference on Romanian television? How can you accuse a trade union that has an alternative to the government program, while you of the "Fratia" trade union have no such alternative?

[Mitrea] As usually, Romanian television people resorted to a little trick. They mixed a previous question to which a completely different answer was given with my affirmations in connection with a completely different question. With the exception of the former General Union of Romanian Trade Unions, "Fratia" has not attacked and does not attack other trade unions. We would never think of condemning the fact that "ALFA" organized a demonstration.

The question that was not heard on television was: Why did we not join that demonstration? We did not join that demonstration because we do not support the Cojocaru program. Some time ago we approached economists throughout the world to consult them about this program. The conclusion was that the Cojocaru plan is a utopia that will lead to economic anarchy. As far as we are concerned, we have no alternative plan. Such programs have to be worked out by political formations and not trade unions. We believe that we have to follow only what those in power are doing and react if they make mistakes.

[Stanescu] Mr. Miron Mitrea, is it true or not that you have been proposed for a function in the government? More exactly, that you were to become the minister of labor?

[Mitrea] This proposal has not been made officially. From various sources, however, I know that such an idea circled and is circling in the top structures of the leadership. I have submitted this prospect to the decision of the executive bodies. Our executive council has decided that we should not accept such a thing. Thus, if I were to be invited by Mr. Petre Roman or someone else to take over that portfolio, I would unmistakably decline.

[Stanescu] Is "Fratia" trade union confronted with any difficulties? The professors have withdrawn. From a numerical and qualitative point of view they make up a large number. What is "Fratia" going to do without intellectuals? In some cities even drivers plan to leave "Fratia."

[Mitrea] I have also heard such things. Last week, however, we held the national meeting of drivers. Nothing was said in this sense. I think that drivers are actually more united than ever before. In connection with the professors, I have to say of late there were several clashes between them and the other trade unions within "Fratia." From television I learned of their intention to withdraw. If we lose the intellectuals from "Fratia" then we will lose a great deal. We hope that in the end we will be able to avoid this unpleasant situation.

[Stanescu] What is your opinion about the differences between the parliament and government?

[Mitrea] It is normal, and it is a positive thing that such differences exist.

Prime Minister Receives Moldovan Foreign Minister

AU0804194391 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1900 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] This afternoon, Romanian Prime Minister Mr. Petre Roman received Moldovan Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Nicolae Tiu, who is paying a visit to our country. During the meeting, the sides discussed opportunities and prospects for developing relations between Romania and the Republic of Moldova. Both sides expressed their readiness to make use of the complementary aspects of the economies of Romania and the Republic of Moldova, and agreed, in principle, on the usefulness of a contract to regulate and stimulate bilateral trade exchanges and economic cooperation.

The sides also emphasized the common desire of the two governments to facilitate cultural exchanges, tourism, and individual contacts, including the opening of new border crossing points.

The meeting was attended by Romanian Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Adrian Nastase.

Reportage on Iliescu's Visit to Soviet Union

WA0804141591

For reportage on the 4-6 April visit to the Soviet Union by President Ion Iliescu, including his talks with USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet chairman, see the East Europe section of the 8 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Tudjman, Kucan Discuss National Dissociation

LD0804223591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1859 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Ljubljana, 8 Apr (TANJUG)—Delegations of Croatia and Slovenia, respectively headed by presidents Franjo Tudjman and Milan Kucan, met in Strmol Castle this afternoon. The main topic of their talks was the process of dissociation of the Yugoslav community, i.e. the solution of the Yugoslav crisis.

The Croatian delegation also included Stipe Mesic, Zarko Domljan, and Josip Manolic; the Slovene delegation consisted of France Bucar, Lojze Peterle, and Dimitrij Rupel. Both presidents gave press statements after the talks.

Tudjman said that "this is yet another working meeting between the delegations of Slovenia and Croatia, and as before, it was held in an atmosphere of friendliness, and endeavors were made to achieve an agreement on how to speed up the final part of these negotiations aimed at searching for a way out of the state and political crisis, because in the present circumstances the political situation is getting increasingly complex, while the state and political crisis is having an impact on the exacerbation of the economic situation. Therefore, we have agreed that efforts being made to find a solution should be speeded up, and we have concluded with pleasure that our views are identical regarding the stands of both republics that searching for solutions should proceed from the position of the sovereignty of republics," President Tudjman told journalist. The Croatian president stressed that both republics "maintain that the solution lies either in an agreement on creation of an alliance of sovereign states, in an agreement on a possible community of the alliance of Yugoslav republics on these bases as a community of sovereign states or, failing this, in a democratic agreement on a peaceful dissociation."

Describing today's talks, Milan Kucan said that "now is the time for intensive political talks, while we are facing the responsibility of resolving the Yugoslav political crisis." This talk today, according to him, "is practically nothing else but a continuation of traditional talks between the leaderships of the two republics, which have yielded good results so far and have made possible the speeding up of the settlement of the crisis through a joint platform."

According to Kucan "the strategic goal of both republics is identical, and it is the realization of autonomy and sovereignty of both republics, their position as sovereign states whereby they can decide on their own interests, position and associations. It should be stressed that this goal should not be understood as being the creation of a closed, autarchic national state but as being a starting point for the inclusion in new integrations and associations, and as being the starting point from which both republics are proceeding in testing the possibility for the creation of a new community of Yugoslav republics as a community of sovereign states, naturally—as we have repeated a number of times so far—with those who are interested in that and who are able to do so. All this is in connection with preparations for a meeting to be held on Thursday, at which we shall prepare starting points on which such a community should be based," Kucan said.

Milan Kucan also stated that "things are widely known and nothing should be added, except maybe that these weekly meetings have proved their justifiability by clear decisions that have been reached so far. We should take responsibility for these decisions," he said and added that "finally, it will be necessary to raise a question of responsibility for the fact that the economic and social situation is not being resolved at the same time and that it is being maintained on a concept that the republics are obviously refusing to accept".

After their statement, Presidents Tudjman and Kucan briefly replied to journalists' questions. Asked what differences surfaced in today's talks, Tudjman said that he could state with pleasure that there were no significant differences, while Kucan added that "if there were essential differences, then the talks today would not last for only two hours."

Asked by journalists to give the reason for holding today's meeting, Kucan said that it was primarily the preparation for the republican presidents' summit to be held in Brdo kod Kranja on Thursday, and also for a meeting between [Federal Executive Council President] Ante Markovic and presidents of republican executive councils. Kucan also added that the reason for today's meeting was the feeling of responsibility not to look for differences, and it is certain that in Yugoslavia there are those who are interested that such meetings never take place and that these two republics will be feuding.

What will the relations between Slovenia and Croatia be like, if Yugoslavia were to disintegrate, journalists asked. Tudjman said that "Croatia will not stay in the remnants of the present federation. This is something with which everyone in Yugoslavia and everyone interested in the Yugoslav crisis, must count." Kucan stressed that relations will be good and even better, because these two republics, two states will be bound to jointly resolve important issues, as they do now in their struggle for the recognition of their sovereignties.

Asked whether, if their sovereignties were threatened, they are prepared to defend them jointly, Kucan said that talks are focused on how to eliminate arms from Yugoslavia, and not how to use them. Tudjman stressed that "resolve to achieve sovereignty means readiness to defend our right to such a democratic decision with, above all, political means."

Kucan then reiterated that the 23 June law on plebscite set the deadline within which the Slovene Assembly is due to prepare everything needed for the Slovene independence. It is just the matter of internal, especially economic and social, and international circumstances when they will come into force. Tudjman said it is known "that we said that, for the same reasons, the state and political crisis must be resolved by June at the latest."

Tudjman emphasized that "Croatian efforts to harmonize steps on the road to finding a way out of the crisis and reaching sovereignty and independence, and, if possible, to shorten this period", he said. "We were in favor of this because both the political and even more so the economic crisis, do not allow postponments. Economic reasons demand an urgent solution", Tudjman said in the course of talks with journalists in the Castle Strmol, following the meeting between the Croatian and Slovene delegations.

Jovic Writes Tudjman on Building Attacks

LD0904140991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1248 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Apr (TANJUG)—SFRY Presidency President Borisav Jovic sent a letter today to Croatian President Franjo Tudjman. The letter reads:

"Mister President,

"The SFRY Presidency was informed that on 8 April 1991 mass-scale destructive demonstrations took place in Zagreb and Split in connection with the start of a trial of a group of people in Zagreb who are charged with preparation of an armed insurrection in the republic of Croatia. Several Army buildings were attacked and damaged, which per se represents extreme danger and a very disturbing fact.

It is unprecedented that judicial authorities (the Military Court and the Military Prosecutor's Office in Zagreb and the Military Court in Split) and a high-ranking Armed Forces headquarters (the Naval District headquarters in Split) were attacked.

It is a particularly worrying that the Croatian Internal Affairs services, contrary to their powers, authority, and duties, did not secure normal conditions for the work of the Military Court in Zagreb and other military institutions. Moreover, some of them took part in the provocations.

I do not intend to dwell on the damage caused to the Croatian reputation and that of entire SFRY, but I just want to recall agreements that have been reached on several occasions, and your personally expressed readiness to contribute to lessening political confrontations and creating preconditions for a constructive dialogue and a peaceful and democratic settlement of all questions.

I am also pointing at an agreement reached at the 25 January session of the SFRY Presidency, which you personally attended, in which it was stipulated that all circumstances regarding the import of weapons and the illegal formation of armed units should be dealt with in a regular court procedure, which in accordance with their constitutional and legal powers, is being conducted by military judicial bodies. On that occasion, full agreement was achieved that competent authorities of the Republic of Croatia and the JNA [Yugoslav People's Army] should accomplish the necessary cooperation.

Yesterday's events in the Republic of Croatia drastically demonstrate not only that agreements are not being respected and that there is a lack of every cooperation, but also that an active resistance exists to implementing decisions of the SFRY Presidency and to applying federal laws and other federal regulations. This is also promoted by statements of some highly responsible functionaries from the Republic of Croatia.

Proceeding from the fact that the JNA and the military judicial bodies must perform their constitutionally and legally based duties and responsibilities, it can be concluded that such events are inevitably leading toward dangerous conflicts with extremely serious consequences. It is beyond any doubt that responsibility for that lies solely with the bodies of the Republic of Croatia.

I am also availing myself of this opportunity to stress once again that competent authorities of the republic of Croatia are obliged to secure conditions for peaceful and safe work of all Army units and institutions in Croatia, and particularly the free and uninterrupted work of military judicial bodies.

It is incontestable that the JNA is neither able nor allowed to tolerate attacks on its members, Army buildings, and resources; for its own defence and the implementation of its functional tasks, it will use all means at its disposal, concludes the letter that Borisav Jovic sent to Franjo Tudjman today.

Tudjman Says Army Will Not Intervene

LD0804173191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1538 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Zagreb, April 8 (TANJUG)—President of the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia Dr. Franjo Tudjman said today he had received assurances from the country's military leadership that the army will not interfere in the settlement of the political crisis in the country.

Speaking at a regular monthly news conference in Zagreb, Tudjman said the presence of Yugoslav People's Army (YPA) [JNA] units in Croatia "provokes concern," but he nevertheless said with a note of satisfaction that "those who had an interest in provoking the Army to intervene against Croatia's legitimate authorities have not succeeded."

YPA units on Sunday eight days ago took up the role of a buffer between Croatian police and the police of the autonomous region of Krajina, which has been proclaimed by Serbs living in areas with predominant Serb populations in the republic, an autonomy Croatia does not recognize.

A shootout between the two police forces in the Plitvice national park caused casualties on both sides.

Tudjman disagreed with a remark by a journalist, who said the United States and Europe were "quite restrained" in backing Croatia's policies.

The Croatian president said that in his view Europe and the United States supported Croatia's option for a peaceful settlement of the Yugoslav crisis through the formation of a confederation in the form of an alliance of sovereign states.

Tudjman confirmed that the question of borders of two republics had been one of the issues discussed at his talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic last month.

He said he had told Milosevic that the "so-called autonomous region of Krajina has never been part of Serbia, or an autonomous region in its recent history."

Krajina late last month decided on seceding from Croatia and joining Serbia - however, the Serbian parliament has not accepted the decision.

Tudjman said he also told Milosevic today's Serbia contained territories which were once part of Croatia and which had populations of Croats.

My desire was to ask them to be reasonable and to point out to them all that raising the question of borders can entail, he told reporters.

Zagreb Mayor Assails 'Provocations'

LD0804164591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1432 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Zagreb, 8 Apr (TANJUG)—At a protest meeting in Zrinjevac, Zagreb Mayor Boris Buzancic dissociated himself from and condemned the actions of the group of demonstrators in front of the military court in Zagreb, saying that they included provocateurs.

All they have achieved is the "destruction of a beautiful Zagreb building and the postponement of the trial," Buzancic said, adding that it was to have been demonstrated to the world precisely at this trial "that this is a show trial a la Stalin."

His appeal that the demonstrators in Gajeva Ulica (street in Zagreb) move to Zrinjevac was responded to only by somewhat more than about 100 citizens, and they included a group of militant people who were provocative the whole time and did not allow the protest meeting to be held. The others chanted, "We want arms", to which Buzanic replied that the Croatian police have arms and that, if necessary, they would be the first to use them in the defense of the homeland, but that they would also call the whole nation to do this. He pointed out, if you seek arms you will be equating yourselves with the "barricade revolutionaries." [passage omitted]

Plitvice Croatians Protest Army Presence

LD0904103191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1636 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Summary] Grabovac, 8 Apr (TANJUG)—About 350 Plitvice national park workers, mainly Croatians, held a protest meeting in front of Motel Grabovac today to call for peace and the restoration of normal life and work. They expressed support for the Croatian leadership in their efforts to reestablish peace in the area, and the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] was requested to withdraw its tanks from the park so that tourists can come.

"The meeting was to have been held in Plitvice beside Hotel Bellvi, where there were about 100 workers, but a column of vehicles with workers were stopped by the JNA on the bridge across the Korana. "In Col. Gen. Andrija Raseta's opinion, Plitvice workers were not prevented from crossing the Korana bridge but citizens of villages lthat gravitated toward the national park and who wanted to come to the Plitvice complex to demonstrate, were prevented from doing so."

Gen. Raseta also said that political meetings of Serbs or Croatians will only create tension like that which existed prior to the arrival of JNA units.

Armored Vehicles Outside Building

LD0904121391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1053 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Zagreb, 9 Apr (TANJUG)—The demonstration outside the federal military building in Zagreb was not evident this morning. The Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs has positioned four transporters at all the approaches to this part of Gajeva Street.

No one can approach the court building because special forces and the regular police are stopping all passers-by at four roadblocks and are not letting people through unless they have a special pass, while those living in this street must show their ID cards.

In front of the building itself are three Yugoslav People's Army transporters.

At each approaching road about 100 curious people have gathered. In the main, however, they are merely looking and commenting on yesterday's events. The only thing is that the odd vehicle passing through the "green wave" [synchronized traffic lights] not far from the court building sounds its horn, thereby expressing its protest against the trial. [passage omitted]

Martic Says Knin Police Force Overstretched

LD0804185991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1440 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Statement by Milan Martic, chief of the Knin secretariat for internal affairs, in Knin on 8 April]

[Summary] Knin, 8 Apr (TANJUG)—Following this morning's bomb attacks on a restaurant in the village of Vrelo Korenicko, owned by a Croatian couple, and on a weekend cottage in the village of Kninsko Polje, a TANJUG journalist asked the head of the Knin secretariat for internal affairs at a news conference why the Knin police force have not yet identified a single perpetrator of numerous incidents that have recently occurred in this region lately.

"The Knin police force are so busy with the defense of the Krajina borders and the protection of the Serbian people from Croatian Ministry for Internal Affairs forces, that they simply cannot pay more time to solving this type of criminal activity. They are working on it, however, and more will be revealed soon."

Knin Serbs Want To Exchange Captives

AU0804183591 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Milos Rajkovic report]

[Excerpt] Milan Martic, secretary of the Secretariat for Internal Affairs of the Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina, stated at a news conference that it is necessary for the Ministry for Internal Affairs of Croatia and the Secretariat for Internal Affairs of Krajina to exchange captive militiamen.

At a regular news conference in Knin, Milan Martic said that the concentration of the special police force of the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs in the border area with Krajina is not diminishing. Therefore, a great number of Serbs from the villages in this area, especially in the villages near Drnis, Sibenik, and Sinj, are spending nights away from their homes.

Martic also said that the Secretariat for Internal Affairs of Krajina has been contacted by a number of Croatian policemen who do not want to take part in the attack on Knin. The secretary of the Krajina Secretariat for Internal Affairs repeated the proposal that the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Croatia and the Secretariat for Internal Affairs of Krajina exchange captive militiamen stressing that calming the general situation in the Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina depends to a great extent on these talks.

The main topic of conversation in Knin today was the explosion that demolished a restaurant in Vrelo, a picnic area, and the arson that resulted in the complete destruction of a vacation house in Knin itself. [passage omitted]

Guidelines for Croatia's 'People's Protection'

LD0504222191 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] An interparty meeting was held in Zagreb today for the purpose of endorsing joint guidelines for organizing the people's protection in the Republic of Croatia. The meeting was organized by the secretariat for the Croatian Democratic Community and chaired by party secretary general Ante Beljo. After a lengthy debate between representatives of most of the parties that recognize the sovereignty of the Republic of Croatia, they adopted a joint standpoint formulated in the following public statement:

At its session of 5 March 1991 the interparty council, in its capacity as an advisory body of the president of the republic, adopted its standpoint on the need for setting up the people's protection, and informed the public about this.

The people's protection is to be set up as a form of defensive, unarmed self-organization among the citizens of the Republic of Croatia in local communities and municipalities to enable them to put up nationwide, mass-scale, organized resistance to anyone who might threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia and its constitutionally endorsed democratic order.

The founders, organizers, and coordinators of the people's protection are interparty coordination committees in municipalities. The principal aims of the people's protection are: to inform citizens about relevant issues regarding the defense, protection, and security of the Republic of Croatia; to acquaint citizens with the possibilities, forms and means of unarmed opposition to all forms of threats to the freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia and its constitutional order; to voice in public large-scale protests at those who are threatening the Republic of Croatia; to organize and carry out various forms of unarmed struggle and resistance in the event of armed and other violent threats against the Republic of Croatia, its citizens and material facilities, and to participate in the protection and rescue of people and material facilities in the event of natural and technological disasters, as well as in the protection of the environment.

Units of the people's protection operate as necessary. At the republican level the founder and highest coordination body of the people's protection is the interparty council in its capacity as an advisory body of the president of the republic. At the municipal level, interparty coordination committees are to be set up, whose duty is to form and organize units of the people's protection in individual municipalities. These committees elect their presidents. It is recommended that the president of a committee is a member of one of the parties signed herein that has the largest number of deputies in a municipal assembly.

At the bottom of the hierarchy of the founders and organizers of the people's protection are interparty committees that are to be set up at the local community level. The representatives of the parties will agree on the organizational structure of units of the people's protection at their next meeting.

Croatia Protests Serbian Declaration

LD0804225291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1601 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Zagreb, 8 Apr (TANJUG)—The Presidency of the Croatian Assembly, at a session held today, considered the Declaration on the Peaceful Resolution of the Yugoslav Crisis and against Civil War and Violence, that the Serbian Assembly adopted and sent to the president of the Croatian Assembly "for the purpose of familiarization" on 2 April this year. In this connection the presidency of the Croatian Assembly issued the following statement:

1. The content of the above-mentioned declaration does not confirm and does not justify its name because the declaration in truth only declares the alleged democratic stances of the Serbian Assembly, but by its content it is an indication of support for unconstitutional, illegal, extra-institutional and violent processes, which wish to establish the situation of a fait accompli in Croatia even prior to a historical agreement.

It is significant—although the decaration claims to come up with formulae for a peaceful resolution of the Yugoslav crisis—that in essence it relates only to the Republic of Croatia, and that apart from the republics of Sebia and Croatia, and apart from the Serbian and Croatian people, it does not mention a single other republic or a single other nation. From this it is evident that the Serbian Assembly does not find a problem of political, constitutional, and economic crisis anywhere except in Croatia.

Although it was sent "for the purpose of familiarization" it is nevertheless unclear why a text of this kind was sent at all to the Republic of Croatia. The text itself, apart from supporting the above-mentioned processes, contains only standpoints in principle on the resolution of the crisis merely by invoking generally recognized democratic rules, and by involing the specific instructions to its own republican negotiators on its standpoint regarding the establishment of a new political and constitutional order.

2. Still, the statement continues, because "the declaration deals with the Croatian Republic, the presidium of the Croatian Assembly deems it necessary to deny the right of the Serbian Assembly to pass a declaration whose essence is only and solely to negate the sovereignty of the Croatian Republic, to ask and demand from the SFRY Presidency and the Yugoslav People's Army to assist it in the unconstitutional resolution of the crisis, and to recognize fabricated creations on Croatian territory as independent, state and political subjects.

"The presidium of the Croatian Assembly protests at unconstitutional interference in the internal affairs of the Croatian Republic on the part of the Serbian People's Assembly, the interference that collectively instigates criminal acts of redrawing republican borders by force and of an armed rebellion on the territory of the Croatian Republic.

"Factually speaking, the claim about '...the use of force on the part of the Croatian bodies of power against the Serbian people in the municipality of Titova Korenica...' is false. Namely, a small but infinitely militant part of the Serbs in Croatia, with the aim of realizing a Greater Serbian state and territorial plans at the expense of other republics and nations—in particular Croat and the Croatian nation—has been committing for some time - at least since 17 August 1990 and especially on the territory of the municipality of Knin and the adjoining municipalities, and certainly in Titova Korenica—acts of violence that are tantamount to serious criminal acts: murders, mining of railroads and water works, erecting barricades, unlawful arrests, maltreatments, and armed robbery. On several occasions, the Croatian Assembly, through special resolutions and other legislative means, warned and condemned violence of self-proclaimed leaders and their aides, who were most frequently sent from other republics."

The spiritual fathers and immediate commanders are certain leaders of the Serbian Democratic Party in the Republic of Croatia untied with extremist-Chetnik elements in Croatia and representatives of the Greater Serbian expansionist policy and those who keep reiterating the historical Greater Serbian aspirations of Serbia, which is best confirmed by everyday events in which the fact is concealed that the outlaws receive help, and sometimes help is called for, or more often it is offered from outside Croatia. Nevertheless, the declaration does not conceal "the offering of all necessary help and support to the Serbs in the Republic of Croatia."

3. According to the 1974 Constitution the SFRY is a federal state of voluntarily united nations and their republics and socialist autonomous provinces; all actions of Serbia, particularly in connection with the fate of its autonomous provinces, are at oads with the 1974 constitution, which Serbia refers to or suspends, according to the occasion or need. Peaceful and democratic settlement of the crisis is too far from any action taken by the Republic of Serbia in Serbia and in other republics. It is not acceptable that the Serbian Assembly should take as a reality the illegal and unconstitutional creations such as the self-styled Serbian autonomous region of Krajina, which was, by a decision of the constitutional court of the Republic of Croatia, proclaimed unconstitutional, and no reasonable and well-meaning person can doubt its illegality.

If provisions of the Croatian Constitution and concrete actions taken by the democratic government in Croatia are putting in an unequal position members of certain nations in the Republic of Croatia, it is strange that members of other nations are not complaining about their rights in Croatia, particularly large groups of Muslims, Hungarians, and Italians, although all nations' rights are equally treated. It is obvious that members of

these nations neither mind being equal with the Croatian people, not do they mind the way their rights are treated within Croatia; but those who do mind are those who have so far enjoyed rights that were usurped to the detriment of the Croatian people.

4. The threat of providing "all necessary assistance and support to the Serbs in the Republic of Croatia" proves our claim that such a policy is not an expression of the need for help, but a continuation of a general anti-Croatian policy conducted from well-known centers outside Croatia. Croatia has more reasons to send necessary help to the Croats in Serbia, especially in the autonomous provinces of Vojvodina and Kosovo. Such aid has not been forthcoming for several known reasons, which resulted in assimilation of a significant number of Croats in Serbia, especially in areas traditionally populated mainly by Croats. The same has happened to many Muslims and Albanians.

"A persistent claim that the Serbian people must live in one state, which would be, of course, a Serbianised [Srbinizirana] Yugoslavia or a Greater Serbia, does not take into account the fundamental historical facts. Inter-republican borders and borders between nations must be based on the fact that Serbia entered the kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovens with clearly defined borders in 1918, and the postwar Yugoslavia on the principles of the Anti- fascist-Council of the National Liberation of Yugoslavia [AVNOJ] regarding the inter-republican borders. Therefore, Serbian aspirations to territories that have never been a part of the Serbian state are unjustified. At the same time, the fate of Srem, Backa, Boka Kotorska, and the geopolitical position of Bosnia-Hercegovina are significant, all of which prompts Croatia to resolutely oppose such demands or to make identical claims on the mentioned regions. The number of Croats living in these areas, despite a lengthy process of assimilation, is not smaller than, for instance, the number of Serbs in Kosovo.

"Any Serbian territorial aspiration to territories outside its 1918 borders, when the kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes was created, or outside its AVNOJ-based borders, would mean that both in the first and second Yugoslavia, Serbia occupied territory that does not belong to it, historically speaking."

"Migrations towards areas already inhabited by the Croatian people under the known historical circumstances can never result in the transformation of a foreign territory into a Serbian territory, because what has been obtained through pleading does not provide a basis for the future expansion of a foreign state power.

"In Croatia, within its previous and especially current borders, no one, not even Serbia, obtained power by conquering Croatian territory.

"The Serbian Assembly can demand nothing from relevant Croatian bodies by issuing ultimatums, because "regnum regno non praescribit leges". [as received] For its plan to redraw republican borders, the Serbian Assembly ought not to ask for the assistance of the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA], the common armed force created for the protection from external enemies, because no agreement can be reached under military tutelage. We hold that the JNA must not—and we hope it will not—be equated with crimes and aims of extreme terrorists, and that it will not give them protection. When the Serbian Assembly calls on the armed force of the common army and under that guise speaks about "the peaceful resolution of the Yugoslav crisis", this means that it neither has other arguments to back its claims nor thinks about a democratic resolution of the crisis. Proceeding from this, negotiations cannot be brought to an end and even less continue.

"5. Therefore, the declaration on the peaceful resolution of the Yugoslav crisis, against civil war and violence, is an act of the Serbian People's Assembly that objectively only intensifies the Yugoslav crisis, brings the prospect of civil war closer and openly supports violence. Therefore, the presidium of the Croatian Assembly rejects the declaration.

"6. With its clear orientation to democratic dialogue, the presidium of the Croatian Assembly gives its approval to talks between legislative groups. Aware of its rights and democratic manner of reaching goals, we agree that international legislative groups and international subjects should supervise the situation in the SFRY and mutual negotiations."

The statement concludes that at its next session the presidium of the Croatian Assembly will initiate a discussion on major issues regarding the political crisis in Yugoslavia, and propose to the Croatian Assembly to adopt acts, that is, stances about democratic settlement of the crisis.

Croatian Presidency Protests Spegelj Trial

LD0804172191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1510 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Zagreb, 8 Apr (TANJUG)—In connection with trials at the military court in Zagreb, the Presidency of the Croatian Assembly issued a statement today in which it "strongly protested the trial of the Croatian Defense Minister [Martin Spegelj] and the arrested men from Virovitica."

The statement says that the initiation of the criminal proceedings and the trial is "an anti-constitutional and illegal act that threatens in the crudest way the sovereignty of the Republic of Croatia and denies and insults democratic constitutional order and the basic human rights and freedoms of the accused and the arrested.

"The charges against those who worked for the defense of democracy and the sovereignty of the Republic of Croatia in accordance with decisions of its state authorities on account of their alleged preparation of an armed insurrection are an insolent and cynical threat to the basic principles of justice and an attempt to carry out a

trial of the established democratic order in the Republic of Croatia," the statement continues.

"Warning the organizers of the fabricated trial on their historical responsibility for a peaceful and democratic solution of the crisis," the assembly presidency maintains that "the legal farce should be stopped immediately and all the arrested should be unconditionally released."

"Such similar acts denying the sovereignty and the constitution of the Republic of Croatia can neither be recognized nor accepted in Croatia, and will be condemned by the domestic and international democratic public," the statement concludes.

Serbian Council Adopts Unity Declaration

LD0904095991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1752 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, 8 Apr (TANJUG)—The Initiative Committee for Setting up the Serbian National Council met today in Belgrade, where it adopted a draft declaration on Serbian national unity.

Here is the text of the draft:

With the creation of a common state of south Slav nations, the Serbian nation did not solve its national, social, and political issue. Its aspiration for freedom, unity, and a democratic state, and for political and spiritual unity in a modern society, have not been fulfilled. This is confirmed by the status of the Serbian nation after the Second World War and current events. The state and social order created by the Communist Party is a historic failure. Yugoslavia is in the grips of an existential crisis.

Divided by republican borders, accused of hegemony and imposition of a repressive order onto other nations, the Serbian nation—politically, culturally, and economically divided by nationalist ideologies and confused by long-term submissiveness—is forced to look for a new national policy as a way out of the historic crisis in which it finds itself. The ending of ideological divisions and mutual conflicts [referring to clashes between partisans and Chetniks] and the development of a democratic national consciousness present conditions for the formation of a new national policy.

Proceeding from the collective identity of the Serbian people as a historic fact with permanent value, and for the mature awareness of national and spiritual unity as an existential necessity, we are duty-bound to develop starting-points and institutions, and seek ways to secure political, cultural, and economic solidarity and unity with all parts of our nation.

The Serbian nation is no longer prepared to lose historical time in the current provisional state.

To this end, the Serbian National Council announces

DECLARATION

On Serbian National Unity

- Draft -

1. The Serbian nation is a single, sovereign, and state-building nation living on its historic and ethnic territories in Yugoslavia.

2. The Serbian nation will champion Yugoslavia as a democratic federal state of free citizens and equal nations.

3. For the Serbian nation to become whole, and for human liberites and civil rights to be established, it is necessary to change the current state and political order in Yugoslavia. The existing institutional frameworks for expression of ethnic and civil subjectivity are not satisfactory.

The transformation of a common state should be carried out in an exclusively democratic fashion and through an agreement between Yugoslav nations. The Serbian nation is championing a Yugoslavia in which it will express its identity freely, regardless of where it lives, and at the same time will respect the rights of other nations. The preservation of ethnic, spiritual, political, religious, and other forms of collective identity of the Serbian nation should be secured through appropriate forms of independence and authonomy where it is separated from its main body.

4. The transformed state must secure not just individual, but collective political rights for the Serbian people in Croatia, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and elsewhere, where it as an ethnic group experienced genocide.

5. The Serbian nation is willing to accept a form of state that does not break up its national unity and does not threaten its national identity.

Serbian political, economic, cultural, and other institutions and organizations, as well as state bodies, will work in line with a previously determined economic status and will develop the spiritual life of the Serbian people irrespective of where they live.

6. If Yugoslavia as a federal state is not acceptable to other Yugoslav nations, the unity of the Serbian nation will be the basis of the political demand for the Serbian people to live in one state.

7. Proceeding from the sovereignty of all Yugoslav nations, their right to self-determination, and the fact that Yugoslavia was not created either in 1918 or during World War II through association of republics, but by association of nations, the existing interrepublican borders cannot be regarded as state and involable borders.

8. In the course of Yugoslavia's transformation, the Serbian people, on territories where it forms a majority, will decide in which and what state it will live.

9. The new goal of the Serbian nation is unity above special interest.

In negotiations about the survival and transforation of Yugoslavia, the Serbian nation will act in unity through its political and state institutions.

10. If through the free will of Yugoslav nations, a common state is set up, it can only be a democratic and law-governed state, in which human liberties and rights, collective rights and freedoms, economic and political democracy, and full civil and national equality are respected.

11. The Serbian nation relinquishes the use of force and undemocratic means in realizing its national, political, and other interests and goals.

Violence and attacks on any part of the Serbian people on whatever part of the Yugoslav territory will be regarded as violence and attacks on the entire Serbian nation.

12. The Serbian nation, through its political, state, cultural, and other institutions, will develop close relations and cooperation with all Yugoslav nations.

13. The Serbian nation and state will nurture comprehensive cooperation with neighboring nations and states in the Balkans, Europe, and the world based on the principles of independence, equality, and common interests in the spirit of integration in Europe and modern world.

14. The Serbian nation is Yugoslavia, through its institutions, will work on establishing and developing permanent links with Serbs abroad with the aim of preserving the national and spiritual identity and integrity of the Serbian people.

15. The Serbian people in the Serbian Republic play the key role and have a special responsibility for realizing the goals of the Serbian nation as a whole. The Serbian Republic should be an economically strong, enlightened, and modern democratic, state that achieves its revival in line with modern achievements and the principles of the international community, and through the free activities of its citizens, political parties, and other organizations and institutions and through spiritual and moral strength.

16. All rights demanded for the Serbian nation are recognized for all other Yugoslav nations.

17. National minorities will have all rights established by international conventions.

Aware of the seriousness of the status of the Serbian nation and responsibility for its destiny, signatories of the Declaration on Serbian National Unity take upon themselves the obligation to work hard to realize its goals.

Serbian Government Resignation Requested

AU0804205391 Belgrade NIN in Serbo-Croatian 29 Mar 91 p 10

[Slobodan Reljic commentary: "Serbian Government's Suicide"]

[Text] All hopes have already vanished. The last of the Serbian successful enterprises are withering away and disappearing. Entrepreneurship is dying. Even the famous Bor Mining and Smelting Works, "a giant of the socialist economy," sent to its favorite government a "Demand for the reexamination of and changes in the system of taxes and contributions in the Republic of Serbia." Out of 100,000 tons of copper produced, this enterprise, which "produced two ministers and three members of the Main Committee of the Socialist Party of Serbia," had to pay 70,000 tons of copper in taxes. This is, therefore, the final result of the unprecedented propaganda for starting a new major investment cycle. The federal government can no longer be the only culprit.

The minister for internal affairs has unpardonably been hesitating too long with his resignation over the 9 March events in Belgrade during which two people lost their lives and more tear gas was used than in Belfast for a whole year. The incompetent intervention by the police "irritated" the people so much that tanks had to be brought to the streets of Belgrade on 9 March. Minister Bogdanovic, who is also a member of the management board of the Red Star soccer team, the only Serbian institution that has preserved its reputation in Europe, explained during the hearing in front of the Serbian Assembly's Board of Enquiry that the main "militants or militant groups," that is, the culprits for everything that happened on 9 March were the Red Star's fans. Those fans, as minister explained, "where they go grass no longer grows, as the old proverb says." And "you know, these fans are...a group of our children who destroy everything in front of them and when they have nobody to fight with, they fight among themselves. If Arkan's group [one of the most ardent groups of fans] had been here in Belgrade, I am sure even it would not have joined them. Arkan is in prison, in Croatia." To a good analyst, the minister has carelessly presented many facts. One could expect that at least the Red Star will sharply react to all this.

The minister for industry, in his spare time, demanded from the Usce Park that the "children" gathered around the water fountain in Terazije be dispersed by force.

Naturally, the minister for youth refrained from talking to students and secondary school pupils who, "despite everything," threw "that Serbia on its knees." Of course, this is not his job. He is only appointed minister for "other" youth, the ones that would not do such improper things.

Prime Minister Zelenovic, in the [Serbian] Assembly, in a live television relay, in front of at least one million

witnesses, said, among other things, that "tonight we had a difficult task of preventing an incursion into Knin, Stolac, Glina, and other places." Later it turned out not only that nobody had carried out any incursion, but also that nobody was preventing anything, except perhaps the prime minister, and that the he in fact did not refer to that Stolac, but some other Stolac populated by inhabitants of mixed nationalities.... And so on.

Let us recall, when this government took over, the first thing it did was to admit that it did not have any plan. Then, instead of saying that it was preparing a plan, stated that "the situation in Serbia" was immensely hindering it and therefore "we do not have time to shape it." It only managed to "shape" a new contribution to the economy of nonsense—a new increase in taxes.

Therefore: Down with the government. Explanation: There is hardly anybody in Serbia that is satisfied with this government (except perhaps an odd staunch socialist who is subconsciously bound to this by democratic centralism). Workers are without salaries, pensioners without pensions, farmers, after the initial optimism, will see how the land will really be returned to them, students have said their "no," small craftsmen are drowning in the increasingly high taxes, the administration is closer and closer to the point when it will not be able to take anything from anybody, journalists are still far away from the freedom of press that they have been demanding, Serbs outside Serbia already feel a fear of a "great deal...."

Serbia continues to live in the total isolation from the civilized world. This government and its ministry of foreign affairs have not offered the smallest bit of hope that somebody could even "morally" support Serbia. One could not even dream about "fresh money" or more significant foreign investments.

The government could go away with a clean conscience. Nobody will miss it. It can take with it the prospects that it has offered to us. The dark that we are in will not increase by a single lux. The ideas which it has "produced" and presented to the public could be written on a match box and thrown down the river.

There is hardly anybody who could be said to be the staunch opponent of this government. The opposition did not have time to become that, the legislature even less so, the workers have not gotten to know it, and the students have not addressed it seriously. In brief, it is now clear that nobody expected anything from it. This government is systematically killing itself. With its moves and idleness it is withering away. Even if we accept that the work and some moves of the government could be "discussed," the truth that blood was shed on the streets of Belgrade on 9 March, because of the nonexemplary intervention by the members of the ministry of internal affairs, is the burden with which nobody could expect the needed respect in the public and the unquestioned "free mandate" without which one cannot govern effectively. For moral people two lost lives used to and still mean the end of a government. This team of people who were collected in anonymity can now return to it without any tremors.

It did not seriously tackle anything and has left the impression that it would not know how to do it either.

Serbian Army Leaders on Republican Party

LD0804163891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1310 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Novi Sad, April 8 (TANJUG)—Dragoljub Micunovic, the leader of Serbia's second-strongest Democratic Party, said there was no chance of Serbia's opposition and ruling party uniting around the point of Serbian people being threatened in the Republic of Croatia.

I am confident that the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia will come to understand that a conflict is not a solution for the situation in Croatia, Micunovic said in an interview to the Novi Sad Hungarian-language daily MAGYAR SZO.

The months-long tension between Croatian authorities and the Serbian population reached a climax two weeks ago in an armed clash between Croatian police and the police of the Serbian autonomous region of Krajina in which two persons were killed and 12 wounded.

The Croatian authorities do not recognize the legitimacy of Krajina or its organs. On the other hand, Serbs justify the joining of this part of Croatia, where they are the majority population, to Serbia by saying that their civil and national rights are being jeopardized.

Micunovic, who is a deputy in the Serbian Assembly, believes that Serbia's unilateral secession from Yugoslavia would not be desired because this republic is one of the founders of Yugoslavia and the international legal continuity of Yugoslavia is linked to it. Serbia could hardly afford to let one-third of the Serbian people remain outside its borders.

Commenting on negotiations among republican presidents, Micunovic said that they all, except for Bosnia-Hercegovina President Alija Izetbegovic, are still, unfortunately, thinking in the old way and are entrenched in their stands. He urged that the negotiations on the country's future order continue in a much wider circle, in the parliaments and parliamentary committees.

Serbian Renewal Movement leader Vuk Draskovic said in an interview to the same paper that his party, the strongest opposition party in Serbia, would do everything to overthrow Communism by May or June 1992, which includes the toppling of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

Asked whether Milosevic or Croatian President Franjo Tudjman was more dangerous to the Serbian people, Draskovic said that was hard to say.

Tudjman's ideology is threatening the biological existence of the Serbian people and his program is that of Croatian Nazis in 1941—to purge Croatia of Serbs, Draskovic said. Milosevic on the other hand has "threatened the democratic being of the Serbian people, enfeebling Serbia's position and causing hostilities (against Serbia) in the world".

Serbian National Front To Form National Guard

LD0504123691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1041 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, 5 Apr (TANJUG)—The Serbian National Front [Srpski Nacionalni Front—SNF] upheld the decision of the Serbian National Council of Krajina, Slavonija, Baranja, and western Srem to join the Serbian state. The SNF has also decided to form "a Serbian national guard for the defense of the newly-established Serbian western border".

This is stressed in a proclamation for the public and for all "Serbian patriots" sent today by the SNF—an association of 11 national parties that are not represented in the assembly. The proclamation informs the public that they can report to appropriate "headquarters for recruiting volunteers".

According to the proclamation signed on behalf of the SNF by member Mirko Jovic, the headquarters will organize "the reception of refugees from the Serbian Krajina and will look after them until the sovereignty of Serbia is established in that area".

Appointment of New Chief Editor Criticized

AU0804083291 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 28 Mar 91 p 8

[Mirko Mlakar report: "Acting Editor in Chief Hastily Appointed"]

[Excerpts] Belgrade—The Independent Trade Union of the POLITIKA publishing house holds that the "sudden appointment" of the acting editor in chief of POLITIKA, a post that did not exist before, at a time when the post of editor in chief is being advertised, crudely breaches the agreement reached at the 16 March meeting of the POLITIKA editorial board in Krnjaca. This amounts to the agreed democratic mechanism of elections being essentially annulled: the candidate who was appointed acting editor in chief has been given a distinct advantage.

"We saw no need for an acting editor to be appointed at this very moment, and for this to be done so hastily, almost overnight and without previous consultations with the editorial board," members of the union said. Bringing Dr. Aleksandar Prlja to this post from a high government position demonstrates that the ruling party is not willing to fulfill the demand of the Independent Trade Union and the majority of journalists that POLITIKA be a non-party, politically unbiased paper. [passage omitted]

The Independent Trade Union insists upon all its demands: it calls for the resignation of director Minovic, the present editorial board of POLITIKA, the editors in chief and editors of EKSPRES, SVET, INTERVJU, TV POLITIKA, and the present workers council, and calls for the democratic election of a new workers' council for the publishing house. Moreover, it also demands that all POLITIKA publications be non-party papers. [passage omitted]

Parties Criticized for 'Flirting' With Secession

LD0804135391 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1127 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Ljubljana, April 8 (TANJUG)—The daily DNEVNIK of Ljubljana, Slovenia, today criticizes some marginal opposition parties in the republic for flirting with the idea of Slovenia's secession. Recalling that "the Slovene plebiscite reflected the will of the people to live in an autonomous state," the daily sets out that "nobody has, however, talked about secession, except some members of the Socialist Party and to it similar marginal parties that are flirting profusely to cover up" their [word indistinct] past.

The Socialist Party emerged from the former Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Slovenia, which was a satellite of the League of Communists during the one-party system.

DNEVNIK sets out that Slovene leaders, themselves, have now accepted the idea that a new Yugoslavia could be an "interesting community" if based on a voluntary accord.

Poll on Slovenia's Merger With Austria

AU0404194191 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 28 Mar 91 p 19

[S. Petrovic report: "Only 13 Percent of Slovenes in Favor of Accession to Austria"]

[Excerpt] Maribor, 27 Mar— About 13 percent of the Slovenes that have been polled throughout the republic declared themselves in favor of accession to Austria, while about 70 percent of the interviewees stated that they would not consider it. The majority of interviewees, however, said they favored an independent Slovenia in line with the plebiscite that was carried out at the end of last year .

The majority of those who would accede, without hesitation, to Austria are women, followed by citizens younger than 30 years of age, and interestingly, children. These are the results of a telephone poll conducted by the Studio for Political and Economic Marketing attached to the Economic Center in Maribor. A total of 306 people participated in the poll. [passage omitted]

Bosnian Party Issues Neutrality Charter

LD0504143591 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1324 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Sarajevo, April 5 (TANJUG)—The Socialist Democratic Party of the Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina today announced it would submit a "Charter of the political neutrality of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina" to the republican parliament.

The charter states that Bosnia-Hercegovina and the nations living in it "Are not the instigators of internal conflicts in Yugoslavia" and should in no way participate in the deepening of those conflicts. The charter states that, in the event the republic's integrity is violated, it should "begin to function as an autonomous state."

Bosnia-Hercegovina is a multi-national republic, [words indistinct] 40 percent of whose population are Muslims, 32 percent Serbs, and 17 percent Croats. Some political parties in the republics of Croatia and Serbia are openly laying claim to Bosnia-Hercegovina's territory.

The Socialist Democratic Party has relatively few seats in the parliament of Bosnia-Hercegovina, where the strongest parties are the national parties which rally Muslims, Serbs, and Croats.

Montenegrin People's Party Wants To Arm People

LD0804205891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1611 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Titograd, 8 Apr (TANJUG)—The Montenegrin People's Party [Narodna Stranka Crene Gore, NSCG] today issued a public appeal to Montenegrin state authorities to prepare citizens for a possible civil war in Yugoslavia—that is, to arm them, so they can sleep peacefully in these tumultuous and uncertain times.

The party leaders hold that in times when 200,000 strong volunteer units are being armed in Croatia, when that republic, as well as Muslims in the Sandzak region and in greater Albanian circles, are laying claims to parts of Montenegro, it would be wise to arm the people as a preventative measure, so previous tragic experiences are not repeated.

The NSCG leaders, with Novak Kilibarda at their head, repeated at today's news conference that they favor a peaceful and negotiated resolution of problems, and in this sense they support activities of the president of the Presidency of the Socialist Republic of Montenegro, Momir Bulatovic—but, they warn, one should not be caught unprepared if the negotiations fail. In their view, the Serbian people are not protected as they ought to be.

Kosovo Officials Sacked for Separatist Activities

LD0504185191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1619 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Pristina, 5 Apr (TANJUG)—The operational body of the Serbian government for Kosovo and Metohija today implemented the decision on the dismissal of the presidents of the municipal assemblies of Djakovica and Suva Reka, as well as a number of secretaries of the secretariats of these two municipalities. This was done on the basis of yesterday's decision by the Serbian Assembly, because of their activities from positions of Albanian nationalism and separatism and their open resistance to the implementation of the Constitution, law, and measures of the Republic of Serbia.

At the same time, according to the statement of the operative body, the newly appointed officials of the municipal assemblies of Djakovica and Suva Reka have taken up their posts. [passage omitted]

Macedonian Party Elects Leadership

LD0804190791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1547 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Skopje, 8 Apr (TANJUG) The information bureau of the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity said today that the central committee of this party had held a session at which it elected a 11-member executive committee, the secretary general and two party vice-chairmen.

Boris Zmejkovski was elected the secretary general, and Dosta Dimovska and Dimitar Crnomarov the vice-chairmen.

Best Selling Yugoslav Papers in 1990

AU0404143991 Split SLOBODNA DALMACIJA in Serbo-Croatian 21 Mar 91 p 23

[Text] The Business Association of the Yugoslav Newspaper Publishers in its February 1991 issue of the bulletin "Information for Newspaper Publishers" [Informacije za izdavace novina] presented the official figures on the average number of daily newspaper copies sold in 1990 and compared them with the circulation in 1989.

"The table of daily newspapers, listed by average circulation, has not changed significantly compared to 1989,"— the "Information" states and adds: "VECERNJE NOVOSTI and VECERNJI LIST remain the papers with the highest circulation and this time share first place. POLITIKA EKSPRES is convincingly third. Among the leading daily papers, the circulation of POLITIKA and DELO dropped in comparison with 1989. SLOBODNA DALMACIJA again noted the fastest growth, 17 percent, in circulation last year, and is firmly holding fifth place. All other papers sold less than 100,000 copies."

Name of the Paper	Average Sale		89/90	
	1989	1990	+/-	
1. VECERNJE NOVOSTI	203,903	222,282	+	9
2. VECERNJI LIST	196,833	221,942	+	13
3. EKSPRES POLITIKA	171,469	198,790	+	16
4. POLITIKA	196,439	184,551	-	6
5. SLOBODNA DALMACIJA	91,928	107,483	+	17
6. DELO	95,240	94,280	-	1
7. VJESNIK	70,922	74,563	+	5
8. SPORTSKE NOVOSTI	73,887	70,597	-	4
9. VECERNJE NOVINE (Sarajevo)	68,525	66,911	-	2
10. NOVI LIST - GLAS ISTRE	55,758	56,586	+	1
11. VECER (Maribor)	52,046	54,561	+	5
12. OSLOBODJENJE	46,775	47,690	+	2
13. SPORT	48,911	45,670	-	7
14. SPORTSKI ZURNAL	—	42,142	—	
15. DNEVNIK (Novi Sad)	37,391	39,677	+	6
16. BORBA	27,340	31,408	+	15
17. NOVA MAKEDONIJA	21,934	23,404	+	7
18. VECER (Skopje)	23,118	22,948	-	1
19. MAGYAR SZO	19,209	20,708	+	8
20. POBJEDA	17,732	19,570	+	10
21. GLAS SLAVONIJE	10,767	12,349	+	15
22. PRIVREDNI PREGLED	9,647	6,474	-	33
23. NARODNE NOVINE	5,713	4,907	-	14
24. NOVOSTI PLUS	—	4,897	-	—
25. GLAS (Banja Luka)	5,629	4,740	-	16
26. LA VOCE DEL POPOLO	2,860	2,964	+	4
27. JEDINSTVO	2,531	2,435	-	4

Government, Economists Seek Free Market

LD0804195591 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1548 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, April 8 (TANJUG)—Yugolsav Minister of Commerce Nazmi Mustafa has called for tomorrow a meeting with republican governments' experts to discuss the lifting of barriers hampering the free flow of goods and sevices on the Yugoslav market. The meeting will focus on the implementation of the Yugoslav Constitutional Court's decision to suspend or freeze all republican regulations contravening the federal constitution, TANJUG learns.

The experts are one of the nine teams formed earlier this month to secure the implementation of the federal government's proposal on a required minimum for the functioning of the federation in the transition period until a final agreement on the future of Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav Government has put forward 11 major and three minor conditions it considers necessary for functioning of the state in the period. These range from the free flow of goods and services to a common defence and security policy.

The proposal, initiated by the Yugoslav Chamber of Economy, was backed today by the Chamber of Economy of the Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia.

The Federal Association of Economists has announced it will propose that all republican governments suspend measures hampering the free flow of goods and services on the single Yugoslav market.

Slovenian economists today assessed that it was essential to maintain the single market regardless of frequent political disputes between republics and of the future organization of the country.